THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE

CANTERBURY

PARK · TROTTING · CLUB · INC

1886~1986
CANTERBURY PARK
Centenary Meeting
February 6 1987
100 YEARS

Office-Bearers 1986–87

President: L. A. Smart

Vice-President: B. F. Hastings

Immediate Past-President: R. H. Duff

Hon. Treasurer: W. G. P. Cuningham

Committee: W. G. Barber, H. G. Crofts, G. E. Dickey, J. L. Hughes, B. D. le Vaillant, P. B. Rennell

Stewards: B. Andrews, M. H. Couper, P. L. Doig, C. F. Hooper, P. J. Kennedy, G. H. Kettles, D. D. Moore, M. P. O'Leary, J. F. Penney, N. J. Rogatski, F. J. Shaw, I. S. Wales

Honorary Stewards: I. M. Collingwood, S. C. Cordner, B. R. Curtain, T. A. Leitch, A. A. C. McPherson, C. G. M. Parfitt, R. G. Sutton

Honorary Surgeons: Messrs J. . Davidson and H. E. G. Stevens and Drs R. R. Bailey, J. M. Louisson, C. R. Moody and A. C. Sandston

Assistant Racing Secretary: B. P. Rabbitt

Racing Secretary: A. J. Lye

Secretary-Manager: T. H. Davis

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editors and the Canterbury Park Trotting Club are grateful to *The Star* and *The Press* for making illustrations available for this publication. The assistance of Mrs Daphne Rhodes is also acknowledged.

The joint editors of this publication, Messrs Geoff Yule and Dave Cannan, are the trotting editors of *The Press* and *The Star* respectively.

The trotting sport in Canterbury owes a tremendous amount to the knowledge, enthusiasm and integrity they have brought to their profession.

L. A. Smart
President

They come but once . . .

Les Smart, the dynamic president of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club in the 1960s, was a visionary, an innovator, a born leader of galvanised decision and action.

In the beginning there was the Plumpton Park Racing Club, 1884. Difficult times saw a change of name in 1890–91 to the Plumpton Park Racing and Trotting Club. In 1898 the name was changed again to the Plumpton Park Trotting Club; and finally, in 1909, came the Canterbury Park Trotting Club.

So, from the beginning, it has always been a "Park" club—a totally credible line of succession.

Canterbury Park, along the way, has become a very special kind of club, and its stature as one of the most original and progressive in the harness concept of Australasia derives from the single-mindedness of executives like Les Smart.

Les led the dour fight for the mobile barrier against virulent opposition that could have demolished even a David equipped with a Tommy Gun! He nearly lost a battle here and there, suffice to say the war was eventually won. He even invented his own mobile barrier.

Today there are still isolated pockets of resistance to the starting gate: "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing" other than blind bigotry. Les could never quite come to terms with this "Dad's Army" element, as he wryly put it.

The hub rail had a similar hostile reception; a foolish hullabaloo that the late Peter Mahon would have described as an "orchestrated litany" of humbug.

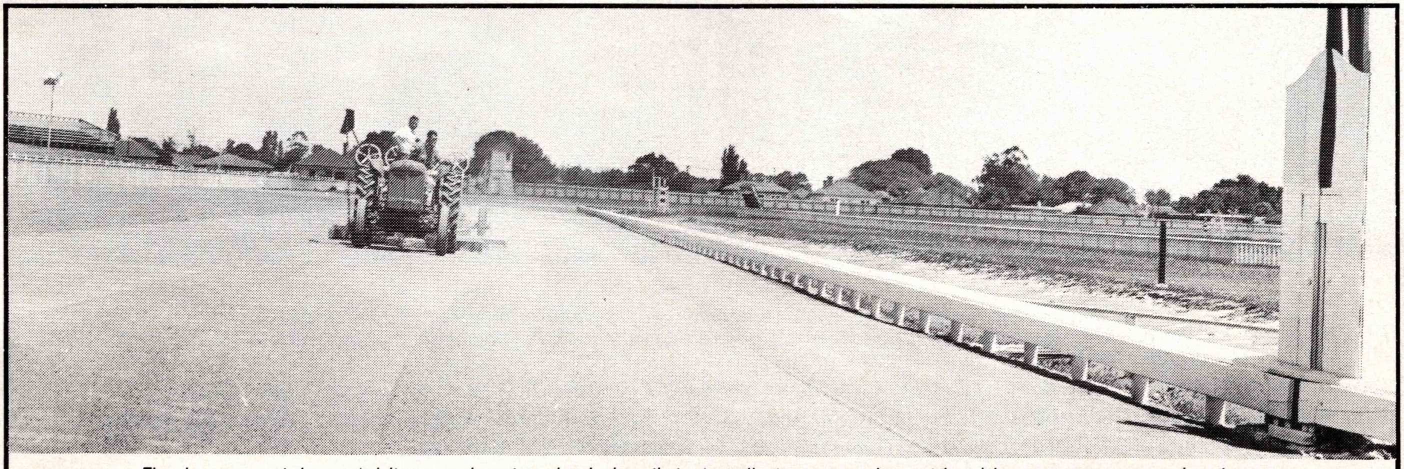
And Les Smart and his band of reformers pressed on regardless with special provisions for two-year-old trotters. There have, admittedly, been some fiascos in these races, but their overall benefit to the trotting fabric will probably forever remain a closed book to the Cyclops tribe who could never be persuaded to remove the patch anyhow!

The vital roles Les played in the rebuilding of the main public stand; the cleaning out of untidy corners and the relocation of the new stables and car parks that followed on; the introduction of new technology as soon as it was on the cards; were but a few of Les Smart's contributions to a situation that was verily crying out for a decent shake-up.

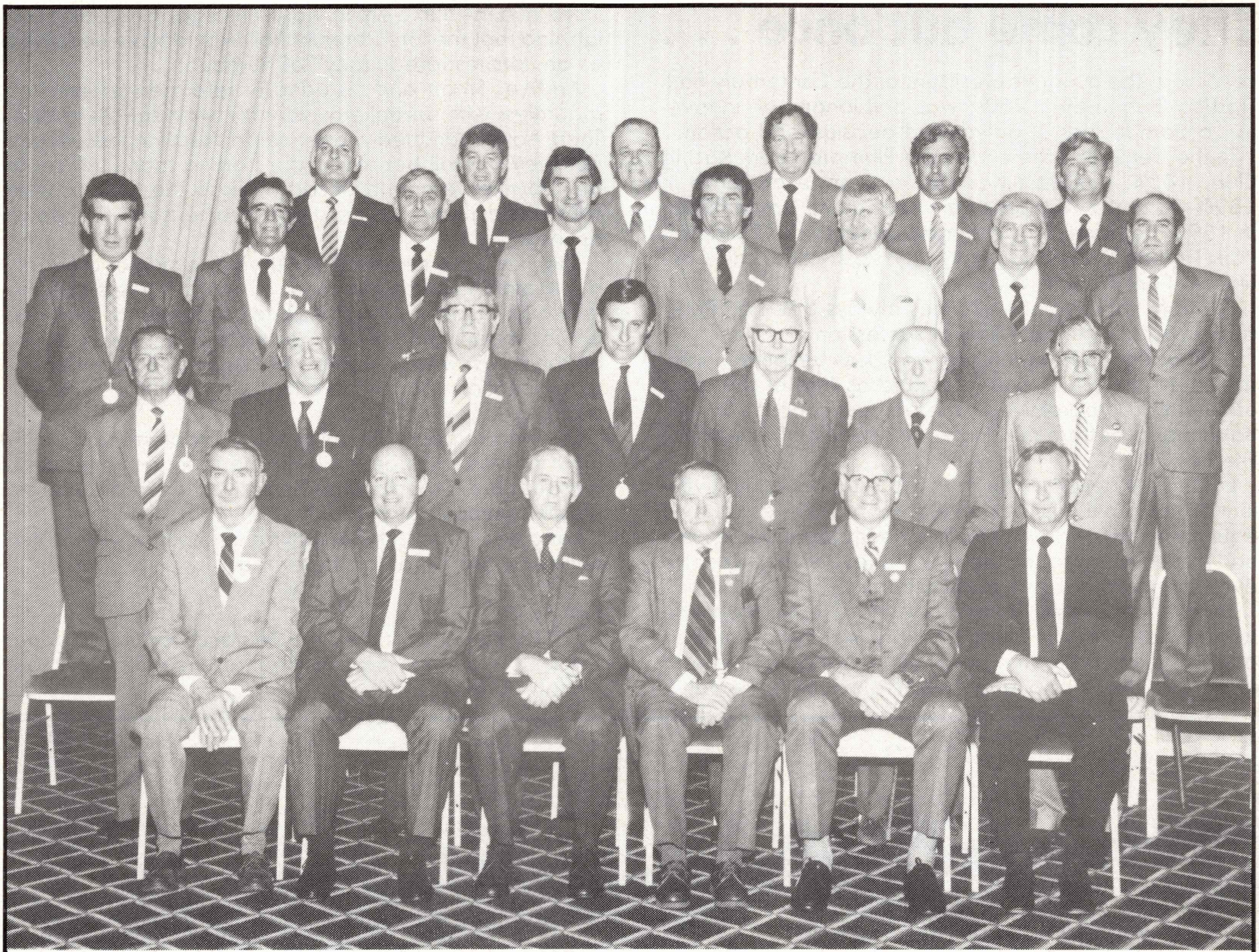
Les Smart's approach to all these problems was nothing if not lofty. He became a legendary achiever in his own lifetime; no enterprise he tackled ever remained a placid collection of platitudes.

Long ago he must have arrived at the Sportsmen's Valhalla. He will be a riot there, too.

Karl Scott
(Editor-Publisher of the *New Zealand Trotting Calendar* for 32 years and a racing and trotting writer for more than 60 years)



The home straight at Addington showing the hub rail; its installation caused considerable controversey at the time.



Office-bearers in Canterbury Park's Centennial year (C denotes member of committee)

Front Row: P. B. Rennell (C), B. F. Hastings (vice-president), L. A. Smart (president), W. G. P. Cuningham (honorary treasurer), R. H. Duff (immediate past-president), T. H. Davis (secretary-manager).

Second Row: S. C. Cordner, F. J. Shaw, H. G. Crofts (C), B. D. Le Vaillant (C), T. A. Leitch, A. A. C. McPherson, C. M. G. Parfitt.

Third Row: M. P. O'Leary, D. D. Moore, J. L. Hughes (C), B. Andrews, P. L. Doig, N. Rogatski, B. R. Curtain, A. J. Lye (racing secretary).

Back Row: J. F. Penney, G. H. Kettles, I. S. Wales, G. E. Dickey (C), W. G. Barber (C), P. J. Kennedy.

Absent: I. M. Collingwood, M. H. Couper, C. F. Hooper, R. G. Sutton.

President's Forward

It is a great privilege to be the President of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club in its Centennial year, an important occasion which brings into focus its history dating back to the formation of the Plumpton Park Racing Club. This club began racing in 1884 on what is now the RNZAF base at Wigram.

During the formative years at Plumpton Park, racing, trotting, and coursing events were run as entertainment for the early settlers.

The pioneers of trotting in Canterbury, and in particular those at Plumpton Park, displayed the enterprise and the courage to pursue their aims, sometimes in adversity, much along the lines followed in modern times.

The Club can trace its activities back to some of the giants among trotting administrators. Mr C. S. Howell, one of the founders of the Plumpton Park Trotting Club and chairman and secretary from 1890 until 1895, had a great influence in the days of the Canterbury Trotting Association and its successor, the New Zealand Trotting Association.

One of the Club's past-presidents and a current member of the committee, Mr R. H. Duff, has, since 1984, been a member of the New Zealand Racing Authority. His contribution towards the workings of that body have been notable.

Since changing to Addington Raceway in 1922, the Club has continued to progress—the introduction of the mobile barrier and the fostering of races for trotters, especially those for juveniles, being two of its principal achievements.

Current members of the committee and stewards of the Club are following the lead of earlier administrators who laid down such a sound basis for them to work from. I am certain that Canterbury Park will continue to be one of the country's more innovative clubs.

Fortunately we have extremely friendly relations with the New Zealand Metropolitan and New Brighton Clubs, with whom we share the control of Addington Raceway. The co-operation between the three clubs is without a doubt one of the major influences towards the advancement of the industry as a whole.

I am mindful of the efforts of former committeemen and stewards and also those of the present-day administrators. I am certain that the Club can look forward to an extremely bright future.

The Club has been fortunate in having had the services of able secretaries, and I feel I must make reference to Mr D. C. Parker, who was secretary-manager for 38 years, and to our current secretary-manager, Mr T. H. Davis.

I must also express my appreciation for the comments of Mr Dewar Robertshaw, president of the New Zealand Trotting Conference, and for those of Mr Karl Scott, a former editor of the *New Zealand Trotting Calendar*.

Lewis Smart
President

Congratulations . . .

The Centennial of any Club marks a milestone in its history. In the case of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, it is a milestone of which it can be justly proud.

The history of the Club is a story of progress and achievement and a tribute to the various presidents, committeemen and stewards who without payment accepted office and unselfishly gave of their time and abilities to further the Club and sport of harness racing which they loved.

The Club has been extremely successful and has played its part to the full in the continued progress of harness racing in New Zealand. I acknowledge its contribution and congratulate the Canterbury Park Trotting Club on its Centennial. I express my best wishes and hope that its second one hundred years will be as successful as its first.

F. D. Robertshaw
President
New Zealand Trotting Conference

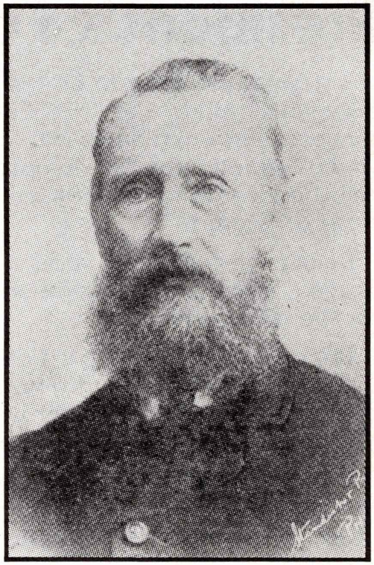
CLUB PRESIDENTS

1898–99	F. Beverley
1899–01	C. S. Howell
1901–06	J. L. Carl
1906–09	A. L. Myers
1909–20	C. S. Howell
1920–24	H. J. Otley
1924–27	J. Leslie
1927–29	Hon. G. Witty
1929–31	W. T. Franks
1931–34	C. E. Cross
1934–36	W. F. Parkinson
1936–38	P. F. Ryan
1938–40	J. E. W. Cross
1940–42	A. Rose
1942–44	M. O'Brien
1944–46	C. Flavell
1946–48	J. F. Franks
1948–50	W. Milne Shand
1950–52	H. H. Wauchop
1952–54	R. T. McMillan
1954–56	C. S. Peate
1956–58	F. E. Sutton
1958–60	H. T. Fuller
1960–64	L. S. Smart
1964–66	T. A. Leitch
1966–68	H. F. Butland
1968–70	E. F. Mercer
1970–73	S. C. Cordner
1973–76	S. Andrews
1976–79	W. G. P. Cuningham
1979–81	F. R. Brebner
1981–84	R. H. Duff
1984–	L. A. Smart

CLUB SECRETARIES

1890–91	J. A. Connell
1891–95	C. S. Howell
1895–44	A. I. Rattray
1941–52	H. E. Goggin
1953–79	D. C. Parker
1979–	T. H. Davis

C. S. Howell



"Founder" of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club.

If any one man deserves credit for the formation of the Canterbury Park Club then it must be one Charles Selby Howell.

It was Mr Howell who led the enthusiastic band of supporters who rescued the Plumpton Park Club from certain obscurity in 1889, the club having gone into recess after the scandal of the July meeting in 1888.

Mr Howell was listed as the club's treasurer, secretary and chairman in the early days, serving a two-year period as president (1899–1901) and returning to that position for 11 years from 1909–1920.

Born in 1836 in Stroud, Gloucestershire, Mr Howell was educated at the Red Coat Parish School, of which his father was schoolmaster and parish clerk for more than 50 years.

Mr Howell, was brought up as a saddler, following his trade in Bristol, Bath, Penzance, Birmingham, Oxford, London, and several towns in South Wales.

He left England for New Zealand in 1859 and arrived in the *Roman Emperor* at Lyttelton a year later.

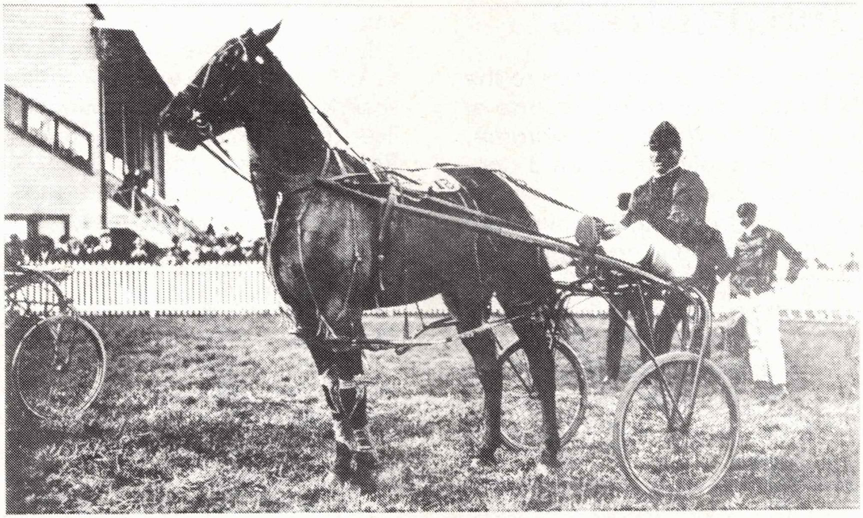
Nine months later Mr Howell moved on to Sydney and worked there for three years before returning to Christchurch where he worked, as foreman, for Mr C. Angus until 1864 when he began a partnership with Mr William White.

This partnership lasted for only 18 months when Mr Howell opened a shop in Tattersalls, which he carried on as a successful business until 1895 when he sold out to his two eldest sons.

Mr Howell was a staunch supporter of racing and trotting from his early days, influenced to some extent, no doubt, by his business interests as a saddler.

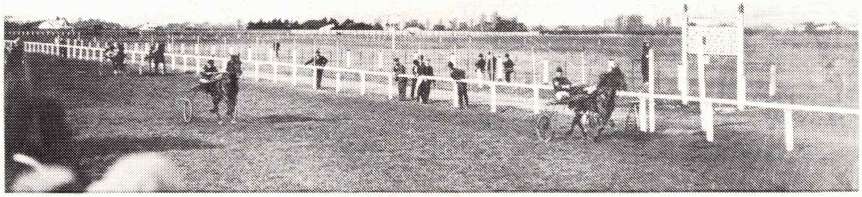
He died in May 1921, aged 85.

WINNING AT PLUMPTON PARK (NOW WIGRAM AIRDROME)
AND IN THE BIRDCAGE AT PLUMPTON PARK



THICKET

Bay gelding by YOUNG IRVINGTON out of BECKY
Owner MISS WESTERMAN
Driver J.S.BERRY



Thicket raced as a 6yr old at Canterbury Park (Formerly Plumpton Park T.C.) on 28th May 1910

J.S.Berry was one of the founders of the N.Z.Metropolitan Trotting Club and later with Mr H.Gorton was appointed a stipendary steward. These two were the first stipendary stewards, galloping or trotting, in New Zealand or Australia

PRESENTED BY A.A. & F.H.JONES

Plumpton Park in 1909 and Thicket wins at the club's meeting on May 24. The Young Irvington gelding was driven by J. S. Berry for owner Miss Westerman. Mr Berry later became one of the founders of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club and then became one of the first stipendiary stewards in New Zealand. This set of photos was presented to the Canterbury Park Club by A. A. and F. H. Jones and incorrectly claims the horse won at the May meeting in 1910. In fact he won the Ladies' Bracelet Handicap by four lengths, taking 2:50.5 for the mile.

Canterbury Park —The Beginnings

The Canterbury Park Trotting Club traces its origins to the Plumpton Park Club, which raced on a 74-acre course at Sockburn now known as the RNZAF Wigram Aerodrome. The early history of that club was fairly chequered and, for two seasons, it went into recess.

On February 2, 1884, the *Canterbury Times* advertised the "inaugural" meeting of the Plumpton Park Racing Club would be held on March 11, 1884.

Club stewards for that first meeting were: B. J. Hall, E. R. Deacon, J. B. Hill, W. Attwood, A. McDonald, S. Bailey, W. H. Porter, T. H. Ranger, T. Acland, and Captain Bell. The treasurer was Mr W. G. Judge (also the chairman of the directors of the coursing club in 1886) and the secretary was Mr E. S. B. Bell.

Seven races were held including one trot. The totalisator, operated by Hobbs and Goodwin, handled £1,300.

The trot was won by the mare, Formosa, which was also owned by Mr E. S. B. Bell, who is shown in the bookmakers' settling lists a few days later as being paid £28.

The trot also revealed a rather amateurish ring-in attempt. The *Canterbury Times* recorded thus:

> "The handicapper having no knowledge of a brown mare called Kathleen, put her on 55 secs. But it became known that the mare resembled strongly a grey mare called Peggy, which had won the Dunedin Trot in 1882.
>
> "During the day the mare sweated and white patches on her tail became apparent. A steward ran his hand through her tail and had it covered in a brown, sticky substance.
>
> "The horse was quickly removed from the course. She holds nominations at the New Brighton and Lancaster Park meetings, but is unlikely to be seen again on a Canterbury racecourse."

The Club ran five meetings in the 1884–85 season, all with the same format. In 1886–87 there were four meetings and the following season Plumpton Park reverted to five meetings. At the February and April meetings the club ran two trots on the programme instead of the customary one.

The last meeting of 1887–88 was held in July and in August the *Canterbury Times* reported there appeared to be a problem with successful owners not being paid out.

It transpired the meeting had been run solely by Mr E. S. B. Bell, who was now adjudged bankrupt. Quite a scandal erupted and investigations revealed that Mr Bell's licence to run the meeting under the name of Plumpton Park had been granted by the Canterbury Jockey Club, which, for no apparent reason, had refused a similar request from a Mr M. Taylor.

Stewards of the Club in those days were liable for the payment of stake-money but Mr Bell was found to have advertised his meeting without including the names of the stewards or other officials on the day.

The owners and public had contributed some £160 to Mr Bell and there should have been enough to pay out the stake-money and still leave some £40 over.

Mr Bell appears to have dropped out of sight, but the scandal continued.

On September 14, 1888, the *Canterbury Times* reported a court case involving Mr C. Hood Williams, owner of Sultan, a winner at the meeting and to whom £28/10/- was due. Mr Williams sued a Mr P. Campbell, who had been listed in the official race book as a steward and thus was culpable to pay the stake.

During the court case it was learned that Mr Bell, secretary also of the Plumpton Park Coursing Club and the Island Bay Racing Club in Wellington (it was in recess at the time) had approached Mr Campbell to act as a steward on the day.

Others in that capacity were a Captain Bell, Mr E. S. B. Bell and Mr George Cutts.

On September 20 Judge Beetham found against the owner, Mr Williams, and ordered him to pay costs of £6/7/-, saying he had no claim against Mr Campbell.

"You entered into an agreement with Mr Bell, not Mr Campbell, and did so with your eyes wide open," said Judge Beetham.

The judge's decision aroused considerable controversy and the *Canterbury Times* was moved to comment: "It is a pity Judge Beetham was not better acquainted with the customs of the racing world in such matters."

The Plumpton Park Club then went into recess. It did not operate at all in the seasons of 1888–89, 1889–90 or 1890–91.

Then, on July 9, 1891, the *Canterbury Times* carried an advertisement for a Plumpton Park Steeplechase meeting to be run on August 1.

The club was granted a "conditional permit" by the Canterbury Jockey Club to run four steeplechase events and, at the time of advertising, still did not have a totalisator licence.

Stewards for the club were given as: D. O'Brien (also the judge), E. W. Roper, F. Beverley, J. A. Holmes, C. S. Howell, J. B. Hill, T. Quill, A. S. Clarkson (also hon. secretary), A. Loughrey and R. J. Mason.

It was known officially as the Metropolitan Plumpton Park Company.

The *Canterbury Times*, commenting on the return of a Plumpton Park Club, recalled the debacle of 1888 and claimed there was "no known club racing at Plumpton Park".

The steeplechase meeting was moderately successful. The *Canterbury Times*, on August 6, noted the club had now changed its name to the Plumpton Park Racing and Trotting Club and this is confirmed in a report from the New Zealand Trotting Association.

On October 8, 1891, the *Canterbury Times* advertised the "inaugural meeting" of the Plumpton Park Racing and Trotting Club to be held on November 12.

It was to the be club's first full trotting meeting with eight races. Stewards were listed, the same as for the meeting on August 1, but the treasurer was Mr C. S. Howell, the secretary, J. A. Connell, and the starter, H. J. Derrett.

Nominations were taken at the Scotch Stores Hotel.

The meeting was a great success, the totalisator handling £2,409, and the honour of winning the first race went to Mr J. Gaskin's grey mare J.M., which also won the last race.

Encouraged by that meeting the club held another on January 1, 1922, offering increased stakes of £220.

On April 4, 1892, the first annual meeting of shareholders in the Plumpton Park Company was held. T. Quill was listed as chairman of directors and a profit of £62 was announced.

Mr Quill noted that during the previous 12 months the Plumpton Park Racing and Trotting Club had operated as a separate body, having taken over the course and grandstands at cost price plus £25 per annum rental.

The Plumpton Park Club continued to operate successfully, mixing full gallop and trot meetings until 1896–97 when its two meetings that season were strictly for trotters.

The meetings were split into four days and were known as the spring and autumn meetings.

In 1898–99, for the first time, the club was officially known as the Plumpton Park Trotting Club, having dropped the word "Racing" at its annual meeting.

In 1898 Mr F. Beverley was elected president. Until that time Mr C. S. Howell had been recognised as the chairman and he was voted president in 1899.

In 1895–96 the club made a profit of £212 and listed its assets at £433/1/4.

In 1896–97 it made a profit of £390/6/7 and listed assets of £2,625 which included the freeholding of the Plumpton Park course at £2,400.

Around this time it was decided to move the club's offices to the Duncan's Buildings, which were also the home of the Lancaster Park Trotting Club and the Canterbury Trotting Club.

The name of the club was changed to the Canterbury Park Trotting Club in October, 1909.

Runaway Winners

Canterbury Park meetings have produced several runaway winners. Ambleside won a two-year-old trot in 1973 by 17 lengths, a margin repeated by Crossfire in February 1979 over 2000m mobile in 2:03.4. Ironically the two-year-old trotting filly Felicia, also won by 17 lengths at the Winter Meeting in 1986 when she set a record over 2000m mobile of 2:37.6.

★ ★ ★

At he 1974 January meeting the sire, Lumber Dream, noted for his wet-track performers, produced four winners on the nine-race programme, namely Dream Away, Saintly Dreamer, Robalan, and Royal Charm.

After the name Change

The club continued to race successfully following the 1909 change of name to the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, but this did not influence the 1920 Racing Commission chaired by Mr Fred Kent, K.C.

The Commission was ordered to make recommendations on the racing and trotting permits to be used after August 1, 1921, the total available to trotting being 78.

In its report the Commission recommended that Canterbury Park be one of those clubs ordered to surrender its permits, another being the Otahuhu Trotting Club, whose permits were absorbed by the Auckland Trotting Club.

Canterbury Park officials used every means to apply pressure on politicians to gain their support for the retention of their permits and went as far as meeting with the Premier.

About that time the Metropolitan Club was making endeavours to develop its own racecourse in Riccarton and it purchased more than 90 acres in an area bounded by Riccarton Road, Blenheim Road and Wharenui Street.

Eventually Canterbury Park won its right to retain its permits and this was immediately followed by an approach to purchase the buildings at Addington, take over the lease held by the Metropolitan Club and race on its own when the last-named club shifted.

The closure of Plumpton Park was widely criticised, particularly by trainers who had properties close by. The club felt that it was unable to face the expenditure needed to upgrade the course, and this decided the issue.

Canterbury Park paid £15,000 for the purchase of the lease and buildings and held its first meeting at Addington at New Year, 1923.

The two-day meeting proved highly successful and the financial returns fully justified the decision of the committee to make the big change from Plumpton Park.

It was in 1928 that the Metropolitan Club decided that the development of its Riccarton property could not be proceeded with and in May of that year it entered into an agreement with Canterbury Park to become a tenant of the course.

The alliance between the two clubs continued, rather uneasily at times, with Canterbury Park being approached in 1936 by the Metropolitan Club to sell back its lease of Addington or to amalgamate. There is no record of this being developed further.

Mr Andrew Innes Rattray, Secretary of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club until his death in August 1941, aged 83.

Mr Rattray was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland, in 1858 and arrived in Christchurch with his parents as a four-year-old.

Educated at the old Christchurch High School, Mr Rattray joined the Bank of New Zealand in 1875, rising to the position of chief of the bill department in ten years.

Ill health forced him to leave the bank and, in 1890, he became secretary of the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, also holding that office for the Plumpton Park, Lancaster Park and New Brighton clubs.

Mr Rattray was a tireless worker for the trotting fraternity in Christchurch and is given most credit for the establishment of Addington Raceway as the centre of the sport.

An approach by a deputation of the Metropolitan Club was made in December, 1943, to buy the course, but once more Canterbury Park applied the veto.

Two years later the two clubs met to consider the formation of a holding company to run the course, but Canterbury Park came back with a suggestion that they should sell to the Metropolitan Club provided they could race permanently at Addington.

Discussions between the two clubs continued year after year, with accountants and solicitors closely involved.

Finally, after the Valuation Department had valued Canterbury Park's interest in the course at £80,000, it was reported in August, 1951, that arrangements for the control of the grounds had been finalised, but general meetings of the clubs had to be called.

It took until May, 1952 before the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Addington Trotting Course, Limited, were signed by the two clubs. The company is now known as Addington Raceway, Limited.

Mr H. E. Goggin, assistant secretary to A. I. Rattray for 35 years. Mr Goggin was appointed secretary in 1941 and served until his death in December, 1952.

It was not long before the company became involved in a bitter argument with horsemen when oil was applied to parts of the clay track surface.

Eventually an all-weather surface was laid down, again not without criticism from some quarters about the size of the material used.

With improved screening methods these problems have been overcome today and now Addington Raceway has a surface equal to anywhere in the Southern Hemisphere.

The low running rail, too, had its critics when it was first used—but they were quickly overcome when persons and horses involved in accidents were tossed to the inside of the course, something which could not have occurred when the old, higher running rail was in place.

In the late 1950s the Canterbury Park Trotting Club introduced its policy of attempting to secure a better deal for trotters, in particular trying to introduce more racing for three-year-olds, and later began non-totalisator events for two-year-olds.

This was done at a time when many were urging the Metropolitan Club to drop the New Zealand Trotting Stakes, then the only classic for three-year-old trotters, as the race more often than not had developed into a procession and had frequently been a disaster as a betting medium.

The Canterbury Park club persevered with its encouragement for young trotters and on June 6, 1981, it ran the first totalisator race restricted to first-season horses. This was the New Zealand Two-Year-Old Trotting Stakes won by the Westport filly, Game Countess, trained and driven by Wally Forsyth.

The race is now recognised as the main race on the calendar for young trotters and it has been granted Group 2 status by the Trotting Conference.

In the past 25 years or so the club has provided racing for the top pacers and trotters and in 1973 it introduced the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Stakes, a mile race for mares and fillies.

From a lowly start this race has grown rapidly in stature with most of the top mares of their time competing.

Bonnie's Chance gained fame when she won the race in three consecutive years from 1982, recording the race record time of 1:57.7 in her second success.

This time was lowered to 1:57.3 by Hilarious Guest when she won in 1985.

After trying a series of races for four-year-old pacers at its October meetings, the club in 1983 introduced the Lion Brown Three-Year-Old Series, which was won by Logan Dryham, with Naval Officer being promoted to second upon the disqualification of Roydon Glen.

This series has proved popular with the public, owners and trainers alike. Thanks to generous sponsorship the final this season carried at stake of $30,000, with a further boost to $50,000 planned for 1987–88.

The club has for some years now been in the top six in New Zealand as far as stakes paid and totalisator turnover are concerned.

In 1985–86 the club paid out a record $444,260 in stakes, giving it an average of $63,465 at its seven meetings.

On-course betting averaged a respectable $469,227, while the off-course average was $1,052,550.

In 1986 the club was granted a permit for an on-course totalisator meeting and this was scheduled to have been run on December 11 of that year.

The Little Hero Ring-In

Like so many clubs racing about the turn of the Century, the Plumpton Park Trotting Club had an involvement with a ring-in case. This concerned the horse, Little Hero, after he had raced and won under the name of Maxim at a meeting of the Sheffield Sports Club in the autumn of 1899.

The Plumpton Park committee became involved after Little Hero had raced at one of their meetings in 1900.

The first time the Little Hero case was mentioned in the Minute Book was after a committee meeting held on November 21, 1899.

It was decided to wait until the secretary of the Sheffield Sports Club became available to provide information.

In March, 1900, it was recorded that a letter had been received from the Malvern Sports Committee saying that action had been taken in the Little Hero case, but the actual penalty imposed was not recorded.

Apparently Little Hero raced and won at a Plumpton Park meeting as the minutes of a meeting of the committee held on April 5, 1900 said: "Resolved that a letter be written to Mr J. Ward informing him that as the horse, Little Hero, has been disqualified by the Trotting Association, the club will pay out the stake in the Midland Handicap to the second horse."

This was by no means the end of the club's involvement in the case. On April 12, 1900, Mr Ward, a farmer of Swannanoa, was interviewed by the committee.

He said Little Hero had raced in his name at the Cust Sports Club's meeting the previous September, and he had finished third at Ohoka.

Mr Ward said he had never heard of the man, S. Stewart, who had been disqualified after Little Hero had raced under the name of Maxim at Sheffield.

He could not say whether Little Hero had raced in his name or that of another person at Greymouth. Mr Ward told of how he had ordered a third party to uplift the stakes won by Little Hero at Greymouth, but this had not been possible as the funds involved had been impounded.

On April 19, 1900, Mr Sheppard, secretary of the Sheffield Sports Club, told the committee that the sports committee had made every endeavour to find out the true identification of the horse, which had raced as Maxim. They were satisfied that Maxim and Little Hero were the same horse.

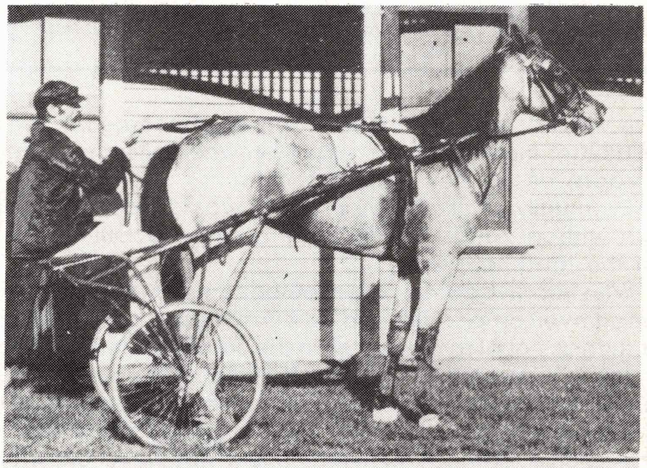
The person named Stewart refused to meet the Sheffield committee.

Messrs Leecham, G. Rutherford, jun., and I. Cresswell, who saw the horse, Little Hero, when he raced at Plumpton Park, said he was identical with Maxim.

The Sheffield committee was of the opinion that Mr S. Stewart was acting on behalf of someone else in the affair.

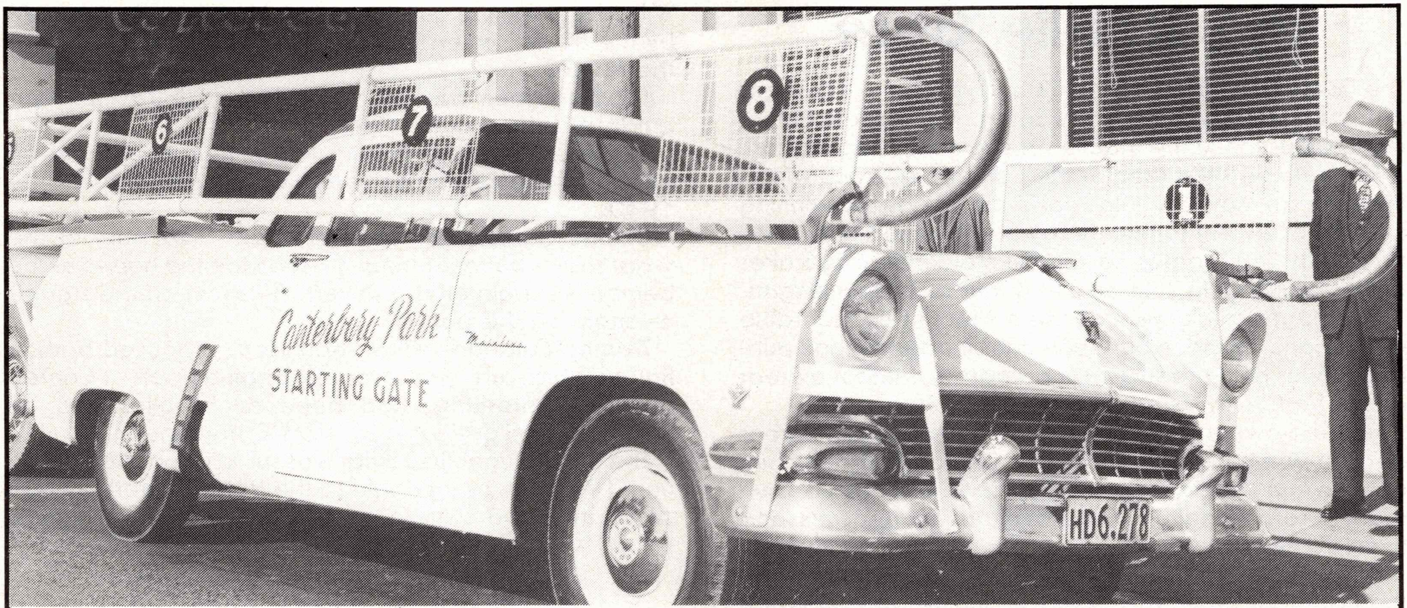
The Plumpton Park committee decided to ask Mr Rutherford to forward the description of the horse, Maxim, as recorded by him at Sheffield the previous April.

Mr Rutherford's reply that he had mislaid the description of Maxim was received by the Plumpton Park committee on May 17, after which it was decided that as the horse had been disqualified at Sheffield, the horse, Little Hero, should not be placed in the Midland Handicap run at Plumpton Park.



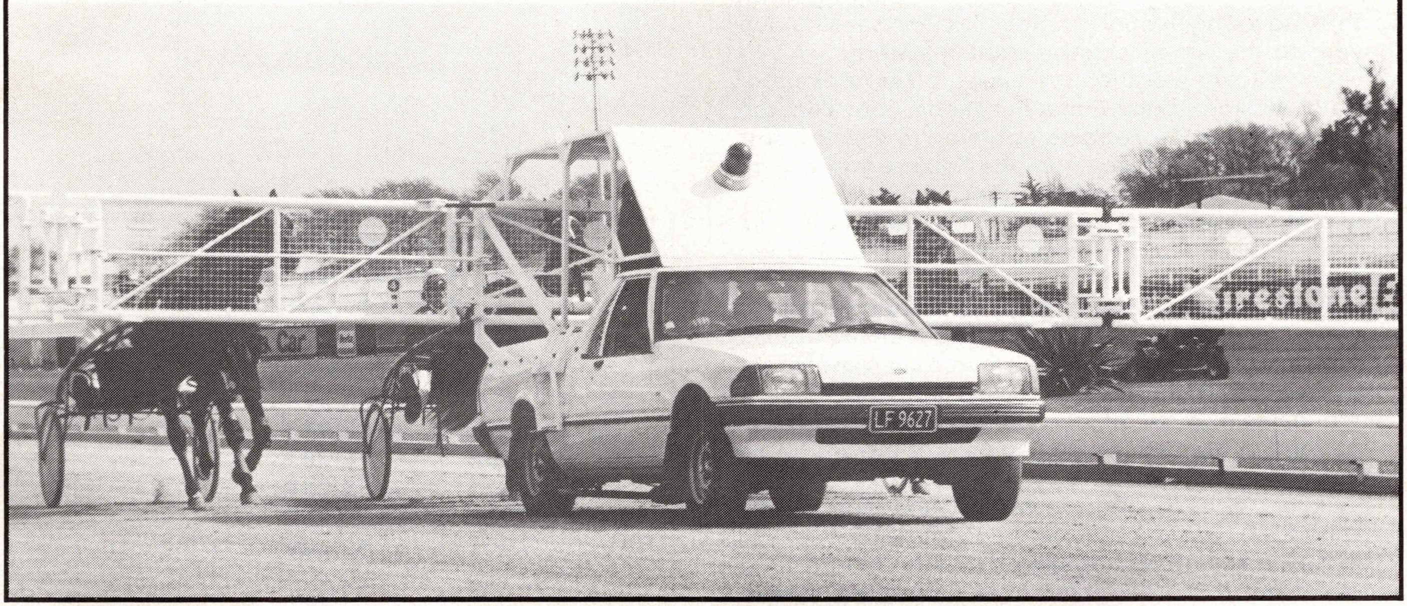
MURICATA, THE SQUARE-GAITED TROTTER, WHICH WON THE PRINCIPAL EVENT.

N. L. Price parades Muricata in the birdcage after winning the 1914 Plumpton Handicap (worth 280 sovereigns) on June 3 by 50 yards from Dr Chutney.


6
7
8
1
Canterbury Park
Mainliner
STARTING GATE
HD6.278

ABOVE: The original mobile gate on show in Armagh Street in May 1962. The Ford Mainliner is still in use at Rangiora meetings on the all-weather track.

BELOW: September 1984 and the new mobile starting gate gets a trial run at Addington.



The Mobile Gate

The Canterbury Park Trotting Club, through the energetic promotion of its president, Les Smart, was responsible for the introduction of the mobile starting gate at Addington.

The gate was first used at the Canterbury Park's winter meeting on May 26, 1962, and the honour of winning the first race went to Doody Townley driving Carina Star, trained by Lou Thomas, to win the Maiden Pacing Stakes over 9½ furlongs in 2:41 on a heavy track, by four lengths.

But the mobile gate was the subject of considerable debate and agitation between clubs, horsemen and public and was not introduced (or accepted) without a great deal of effort by its advocates.

Hawera owner-trainer, Alex Corrigan began the great debate when he produced New Zealand's first mobile gate in the late 1950s. He spent £2,500 of his own money converting a Land Rover, using boosters and hydraulically-operated barrier arms.

His big day came at Hawera on April 23, 1957, when the first mobile start race was run and won by Brahman (Ces Donald). Ironically the runner-up was Mr Corrigan's own horse, Earl Marie.

Mr Corrigan then began a nation-wide campaign with his gate, travelling throughout New Zealand seeking club converts to the American-style starting system.

The Land Rover was then seen in action at Addington, Stratford, Waikato, Cambridge, Pukekohe, New Brighton and Tauranga and its detractors pointed to the slowness of the vehicle to pull away from the fields, especially on grass tracks or on softish all-weather tracks.

The anti-mobile faction seemed to have won when Mr Corrigan found he was pursuing a lost cause, and stopped his campaign.

But the Canterbury Park Trotting Club responded to the many requests from horsemen who had seen the mobile in action in America and with Les Smart as its most ardent advocate, a new mobile gate was constructed.

It was given a couple of trial outings, which proved successful, and performed well when tried at the first totalisator meeting.

However, a year after its debut, the controversy continued.

The New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club decided not to have any more mobile starts. Club official Bernie Wilks described the gate as "dangerous" and "not wanted by the public" when speaking at an annual meeting of the NZMTC.

Top horsemen George Noble and Cecil Devine were quick to defend the mobile.

Noble claimed the mobile would help overthrow an antiquated handicapping system which was framed in the 1940s.

Devine claimed the mobile would "take four of the worst strains out of trotting: 1—strain on the horses at the barrier; 2—strain on the drivers; 3—strain on the starter; 4—strain on the punter."

Trotting Calendar editor, Karl Scott, produced betting figures which proved the largest betting pools at Canterbury Park meetings had been on mobiles and he produced similar figures for NZMTC meetings.

The original mobile barrier was still in use at Addington until 1984. It was then sold to the North Canterbury OTB Association and is still in use at Rangiora trial meetings.

TOTALISATOR RETURNS
Comparative Table
New Year Meeting

	On-course	Off-course
1923–24	£81,589	
1936–37	£64,527	
1942–43	£159,914	
1945–46	£216,201	
1950–51	£243,019	
1967–68	$572,476	
1976–77	$755,444	$930,478
1985–86	$1,220,411	$2,670,070

From the Minute Books

The Club's official records date back only to the 1890–91 season. The authors have compiled this precis of the Club's activities since then.

1899

November A two-day meeting was held on November 2 and 8 with stakes of £80 and £90 for the main races. The total stakes were £767/2/6. Nomination and acceptances amounted to £314/12/6 and gate receipts were £216/5/6. The Club received £610/10/5 from the totalisator and paid £107/17/7 by way of totalisator tax.

1900

March Stakes of £598/10/- were paid for a two-day meeting on March 10 and 15, with prizes from £25 to £60 for each event.

1901

March The Club ran into difficult times and reduced the stakes for the main races from £120 to £60.

1902

May The Club arranged a mortgage of £1,400 and the committee gave consideration to selling some of the property.

A change to the rules of the Club was made to provide for the bracketing of horses produced by the one trainer.

1903

September Three sections were sold for £150.

Resolved to run an eight-race programme between 2.30 p.m. and 4.45 p.m., four races to be in harness and the other four in saddle, all events over one and two miles.

Two racecourse inspectors were engaged.

1904

October Christchurch Racing Club offered £100 towards the cost of a new stewards' stand. This was declined, with the committee deciding to go ahead without outside help.

The tender of Mr H. J. Otley of £508/5/- was accepted for the erection of the grandstand.

November Decided to hold a meeting on December 26, 1904, and January 2 and 3, 1905.

The main race was the New Year Handicap, a 4min 55s class race over two miles. Nomination fees were set at £2 and acceptance fees at £1/10/-.

Decided that the Christchurch Racing Club be charged £20 a day for the use of the course.

1906

April Mr Charles Cross appointed a member of the club.

Mr N. Goodwin operated the totalisator until 1906, after which Mr W. McDougall was appointed to the position.

1907

March Decided to include a race for trotters only on each programme. Later in the year it was decided to include two such races in each programme.

July Payment of money due from the Coursing Club to be enforced.

1908

January The club decided to sue the Coursing Club and refuse them the use of the course.

September The lease held by the Coursing Club expired. The club was asked to meet the requirements of the lease or it would be asked to leave the course.

October The Coursing Club was given seven days in which to remove its buildings, fencing, etc., from the racecourse.

1909

January A decision about the building of a new grandstand was deferred.

Bookmakers' levies were fixed at £15/15/- for both the inside and outside enclosures.

June A tender of £2,390 from N. N. Smith was accepted for the construction of a new grandstand.

September N. N. Smith's tender of £590 for the erection of a new totalisator house was accepted.

October The name of the Club was changed to the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, the change to be effective from October 29.

December The committee resolved that the president be given a free hand to extend hospitality to visitors on the day of the opening of the new grandstand.

1910

August The Metropolitan Trotting Club was granted permission to hold its August meeting on the Plumpton Park course.

1911

May Messrs Howell and Wallace were appointed to interview Mr Burke with reference to liquor supplied in the booth.

August Messrs Wallace and Beverley moved that it was not in the interests of the sport to patronise business firms which were opposed to the club's interests, and in future the business of the club be given to firms which were in sympathy with the sport.

1912

July Members' subscriptions were set at 10/6.

November Mr Horace Shirley was appointed caretaker of Plumpton Park at £2 a week.

1913

March A tender of £1,147/5/- was accepted for the erection of new tearooms.

October The committee received a letter from the Owners and Trainers' Association suggesting that the minimum fine for offenders getting away before time be £5.

The Association also asked for the introduction of races restricted to two- and three-year-olds.

1914

December Daily fees for officials were set at £4/4/- for the clerk of scales and £3/3/- for each of the timekeeper and the starter.

P. Burke and Co. Ltd had its tender of £315 a year for the rights to the booth accepted for a term of three years.

1915

August The Club donated £500 to the Patriotic Fund for wounded soldiers.

December The Club was asked to appoint a delegate to a meeting of the Trotting Conference called to consider the appointment of stipendiary stewards. Mr R. Wallace was appointed and told to point out that from the experience of the Club it was considered this expense was "quite unnecessary".

1916

January The committee resolved to pay the salary of the secretary's assistant, Mr H. E. Goggin, while he was serving at the Front.

June The Club invested £3,000 at call.

October It was decided that the stake for the Champion Handicap be increased at £1,000.

November Messrs I. Franks, C. E. Cross, R. Derrett and I. A. Holmes were appointed judiciary stewards to act with the stipendiary stewards.

December An application for membership was declined on the grounds that the person concerned was a member of other clubs.

1917

April The committee was of the opinion that the Trotting Conference be called together to consider the curtailment of trotting meetings as a war-time measure.

1919

June The salary of the caretaker was increased to £210 a year.

1920

January The Club's handicapper, Mr F. C. Thomas, was suspended for alleged misconduct at a race meeting. He was ordered to appear before the committee.

Later in the month, after considering statements, the committee reinstated Mr Thomas.

July The Club wrote to the owners of the by-products works at Sockburn complaining about the smell from its operations sweeping across the course on race days.

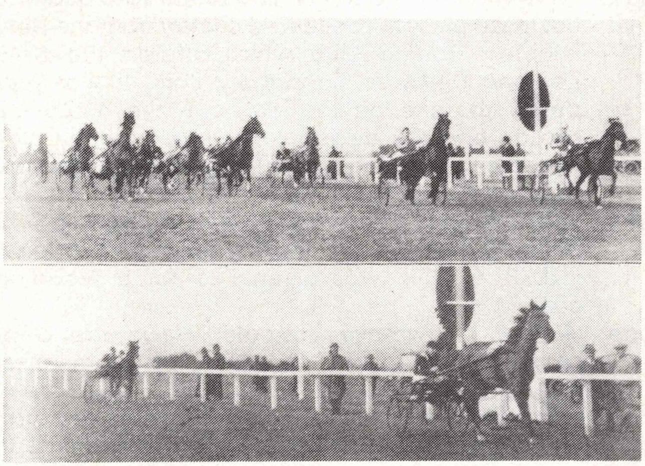
1921

February Mr H. Reynolds resigned as starter after 20 years.

March The Club advertised for a new starter at £15/15/- per day. At the same time the Club confirmed salaries for the New Year at: secretary, £200 per annum; clerk, £50, and timekeeper, £4/4/- per day.

April Mr W. Norman was appointed the new starter.

May The death of Club stalwart, Mr C. S. Howell was recorded. He attended his last meeting as chairman on March 2 and testimony to his frailness can be seen in a very shakey signature on the minutes.



More action from the Plumpton Park Club's June meeting in 1914 as Wai Rongoa wins the Peninsula Handicap by six lengths from Chorus Girl. The start of the race is shown at top.

A vote of deep appreciation for Mr Howell's services to the Club for 29 years was recorded.

The course caretaker, Mr H. Shirley, resigned. A replacement was advertised for at £200 per annum "with provision for the successful applicant to keep a cow and a horse on the property".

The Club formulated a remit to the Conference calling for no two-year-old races to be run further than one mile.

Mr I. Coates was appointed caretaker.

June A letter was sent to the by-products company complaining about the "filthy stench" which affected the Club's meeting on June 4. The matter was placed in the hands of the Club's solicitor to take such action deemed "expedient" to prevent a recurrence of the "dreadful stench".

July Proposed by Mr I. A. Holmes, seconded Mr I. Hembling, that the New Brighton and New Zealand Metropolitan Clubs be approached to see if they would give up a date to the Canterbury Park Trotting Club so that it could "carry on its business as usual" instead of being closed down as recommended by the Commission.

Because of the gravity of the situation all work at the Sockburn course was stopped, including work on a new road.

August A deputation of the Club met the Minister of Internal Affairs to refute the recommendation of the Racing Commission to close the club down.

The North Canterbury Jockey Club was given permission to hold its Spring Meeting on the Plumpton Park Course.

October The Club, still fighting its closure, met with the Premier to discuss the matter.

The Club decided to pay out stakes of £6,600 at its two-day New Year Meeting.

1922

April The Club withdrew £5,000 from L. Manning and Co., and invested £6,000 with the Post Office.

August Club members to be charged an entrance fee to meetings of £1.

August 30 The Club decided to purchase the buildings at Addington from the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club. The Club applied for permission to transfer its permits to Addington.

October The Minister of Internal Affairs gave permission to the Canterbury Park and New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Clubs to race at Addington until the Met. moved to its new property at Riccarton.

The Club decided to change the name of its time-honoured Champion Handicap to the Canterbury Park Cup Handicap.

November The Club decided to sell the Sockburn course by auction through Matson and Co.

December The Club stewards decided to invite the ladies to "afternoon tea in the Stewards' Stand".

The judge's box at Sockburn was donated to the New Brighton Club.

1923

January The Club received a letter from Mr R. Derrett raising the question of remarks made in 1919(!) by Mr H. J. Ottley about a hole in the track at Plumpton Park. The letter, which seemed to be about four years late, was "received" and no further mention was made of it.

February Pyne, Gould and Guiness became part of the set-up to auction the Sockburn course, and Matsons asked the club to set a date for the occasion.

The Club resolved to place a reserve of £100 per acre on Plumpton Park but specified the scraping sheds, iron gates and turnstiles were "not" to be included in the sale.

May The Club put up £150 if "Happy Voyage" went 2:3 in a time-trial at its meeting on June 4, or £200 if he beat 2:3

June The Club offered to sell Plumpton Park to the Government for use by the Aviation Department.

October The Government sent a telegram, declining to purchase the course.

The NZMTC was asked to pay half the cost of removal of the iron fencing from Sockburn and re-erection on Wrights Road, Addington.

The club resolved to place a reserve of £8,500 on the auction of Plumpton Park with the buildings to be sold separately at a later date.

December The club decided to sell the caretaker's cottage at Sockburn plus 1/4 of an acre, and asked the president to get "as near to £600 as possible".

1924

January The Club paid £1,200 off the mortgage held by the NZMTC.

July The Canterbury Rugby Football League asked for the use of a portion of Addington for a game against an English team on August 16. (Later the League successfully sought an extension of this agreement to use the grounds for the remainder of the season.)

August The Greymouth Trotting Club advised it could not pay for the fence it bought from Plumpton Park, but said it would be able to after its October meeting. The Canterbury Park Trotting Club decided to draw on the Greymouth Club through the bank after its October meeting for the amount owing.

October Mr Leslie announced he had sold the caretaker's cottage (plus the 1/4 acre) for £650 and had let the remainder of the course at £75 per acre.

1925

January The Club paid another £1,200 off its mortgage on Addington.

March The monthly meeting failed to attract a quorum, but those present considered a letter from the New Brighton Trotting Club which offered the New Zealand Derby to Canterbury Park. It was proposed to take on the classic in the 1926–27 season and this decision was subsequently confirmed at a meeting with a full quorum, setting the date at January 1, 1926.

April The Club advised Matsons-Pynes it required £6,000 "clear of commission" for the Sockburn property.

H. E. Goggin was given £25 for a wedding present.

June A Mr A. J. Lawrence was paid £7/10/- after complaining his coat was not in the "lost room" after a recent meeting.

The Club resolved to send "two cases of petrol and a letter of thanks" to T. G. Fox, W. Tomkinson and D. Withers in recognition of services rendered for using their cars to "dry out the track" at its most recent meeting.

September The NZMTC agreed to take over the New Zealand Derby instead of Canterbury Park. The Met. offered two £50 silver cups to Canterbury Park to be applied to any race for the next two years in acknowledgement of gaining the Derby. Canterbury Park turned down the offer of the cups.

December Canterbury Park declined to provide a "clerk of works" or contribute in any way to the expense involved in the painting of the buildings at Addington as prescribed in the original agreement of purchase.

1926

January Mr Coates, the caretaker, was asked to attend a meeting of the committee to explain how the bar was entered and the keys of the same found therein "and other matters" at the New Year Meeting.

Mr Coates claimed no responsibility for the bar being entered but was reprimanded for his carelessness "and leaving the keys lying about".

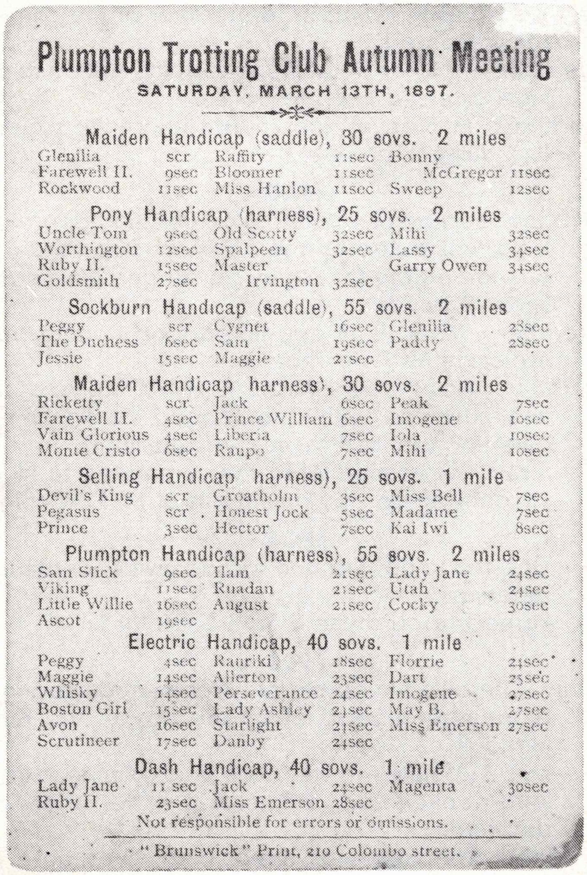
May Mr W. H. Norton wrote to the Club suggesting that he be presented with a trophy as his mare, Bonny Logan, had recorded a record time in a race—"Received".

June The starter, Mr W. Norman, resigned.

November Mr W. E. Simes sought an option over the Sockburn property. The price was fixed at £6,000 and "possession be given in three months".

Mr A. J. Hastings was appointed starter at 15 guineas a day.

The Club decided to build a new outside grandstand at a cost of not more than £3,000.



Plumpton Trotting Club Autumn Meeting

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 1897.

Maiden Handicap (saddle), 30 sovs. 2 miles

Glenilia	scr	Raffity	11sec	Bonny McGregor	11sec
Farewell II.	9sec	Bloomer	11sec		
Rockwood	11sec	Miss Hanlon	11sec	Sweep	12sec

Pony Handicap (harness), 25 sovs. 2 miles

Uncle Tom	9sec	Old Scotty	32sec	Mihi	32sec
Worthington	12sec	Spalpeen	32sec	Lassy	34sec
Ruby II.	15sec	Master Irvington	32sec	Garry Owen	34sec
Goldsmith	27sec				

Sockburn Handicap (saddle), 55 sovs. 2 miles

Peggy	scr	Cygnet	16sec	Glenilia	28sec
The Duchess	6sec	Sam	19sec	Paddy	28sec
Jessie	15sec	Maggie	21sec		

Maiden Handicap harness), 30 sovs. 2 miles

Ricketty	scr	Jack	6sec	Peak	7sec
Farewell II.	4sec	Prince William	6sec	Imogene	10sec
Vain Glorious	4sec	Liberia	7sec	Iola	10sec
Monte Cristo	6sec	Raupo	7sec	Mihi	10sec

Selling Handicap harness), 25 sovs. 1 mile

Devil's King	scr	Groatholm	3sec	Miss Bell	7sec
Pegasus	scr	Honest Jock	5sec	Madame	7sec
Prince	3sec	Hector	7sec	Kai Iwi	8sec

Plumpton Handicap (harness), 55 sovs. 2 miles

Sam Slick	9sec	Ilam	21sec	Lady Jane	24sec
Viking	11sec	Ruadan	21sec	Utah	24sec
Little Willie	16sec	August	21sec	Cocky	30sec
Ascot	19sec				

Electric Handicap, 40 sovs. 1 mile

Peggy	4sec	Rauriki	18sec	Florrie	24sec
Maggie	14sec	Allerton	23sec	Dart	25sec
Whisky	14sec	Perseverance	24sec	Imogene	27sec
Boston Girl	15sec	Lady Ashley	24sec	May B.	27sec
Avon	16sec	Starlight	24sec	Miss Emerson	27sec
Scrutineer	17sec	Danby	24sec		

Dash Handicap, 40 sovs. 1 mile

Lady Jane	11 sec	Jack	24sec	Magenta	30sec
Ruby II.	23sec	Miss Emerson	28sec		

Not responsible for errors or omissions.

"Brunswick" Print, 210 Colombo street.

An original race card for a meeting at Plumpton Park in March 1897. It was printed by "Brunswick Print, 210 Colombo Street".

1927

January The Club purchased a chronograph for timing races.

May The New Zealand Trotting Conference asked the Club not to allow the horses Katuka Jack and St Pelrox to start in harness races.

P. Burke and Co. were given a four-year contract at £100 per day to supply luncheon, afternoon tea and run the booth at the Club's meetings.

July The Club instructed solicitors to advise Mr C. E. Cross to complete the purchase of the Sockburn property in 14 days.

September Mr Cross given another 14-day extension to complete purchase of the property.

December Mr Cross was refunded his deposit of £100 for the purchase of the Sockburn property and Mrs Cross was given a cheque for five guineas.

1928

January The Club withdrew offers made to the Metropolitan Club for use of the course and decided to enter into fresh negotiations.

March Mr C. Hutchinson wrote to the Club saying the tracks left by the public when they crossed the course were solely responsible for horses falling at that point.

A patron wrote complaining about the loss of a coat in the ladies' cloakroom at the meeting on January 2. It was resolved to ask him to produce the ticket and the caretaker, Mr J. Coates, to explain how the coat became lost.

He was also told anything left in the cloakrooms had to be removed to a safe place. In April the Club decided to pay the patron £5 for the loss of the coat and apologised for the delay in handling the matter. The caretaker was ordered to attend a meeting on May 19 where it was decided that he should pay the £5!

May Mr Allan L. Matson elected a member of the Club.

June An agreement with the Metropolitan Club re the tenure of the grounds was signed.

August The Club purchased 500 cigars from F. Cross and Sons.

November The caretaker, Mr Coates, and also Mr E. Bowden, were fired from the Club. Each was given one month's wages in lieu of notice.

December Mr J. Highsted appointed caretaker at a salary of £260 per year plus a free house. Mr S. Barnes appointed track man at £5 per week less 15/- per week house rental.

1929

June Letter received from the Trotting Association enclosing a petition seeking alterations to the Gaming Bill to allow the telegraphing of money to the course.

The Club, however, was not in favour of increasing the avenues of gambling.

July Letter from the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency agreeing to continue the lease of the land at Addington at a reduced rental of £100 per year. "Approved."

The Canterbury Park, New Brighton, and New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Clubs agreed to a request from the Minister of Internal Affairs to run a meeting, the proceeds of which to be donated to the Murchison Earthquake Fund.

October Admission charges fixed as follows: Gents, 2/-; Ladies, 1/-; Lawn, 5/-.

December The Metropolitan Club sought to build grandstands at the southern end of the course and change racing from left- to right-handed and the winning post to be shifted to the southern end.

1930

February Club advised Metropolitan Club they were not in favour of changing from left- to right-handed racing.

1931

May Letter from the City Messenger Service Co. asking that their employees be admitted free to the course if in uniform. Request refused.

June Metropolitan Club offered the use of its offices at a rental of £75 per year. Club agreed and sought a five-year term.

July The number of stewards was increased from ten to twelve.

September Application from Nelson Trotting Club to race at Addington declined.

Stakes for the Club's January meeting were reduced by £1,750.

November Agreed that interval between races be 45 minutes.

Further reduction in stakes for Summer Meeting of £200.

1932

January Mr E. Holmes resigned as clerk of the course.

Mr Ferguson was appointed to the dual capacity of clerk of the course and "runaway horse" attendant.

May Admission to Addington reduced to 1/-.

June Death of R. J. Mason, a member of the committee, recorded.

September Change in the handicapping system to provide assessed limits for races.

December Mr Stonyer appointed clerk of the scales at five guineas per day.

1933

April Introduction of win and place betting approved.

May Club was asked by the Railways Department to provide a gate for use by passengers crossing the Show Grounds.

September Mr G. Paul appointed Club handicapper, replacing Mr F. C. Thomas.

December An offer from Miss E. C. Hinds to give a "trotting exhibition" with Harold Logan, should the Club give financial assistance, was declined.

Mr E. Cross elected to the committee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr J. Winnig.

1934

May Decided to pay first and second dividends at future meetings.

July Agreed to purchase a Stud Book for £1/1/-.

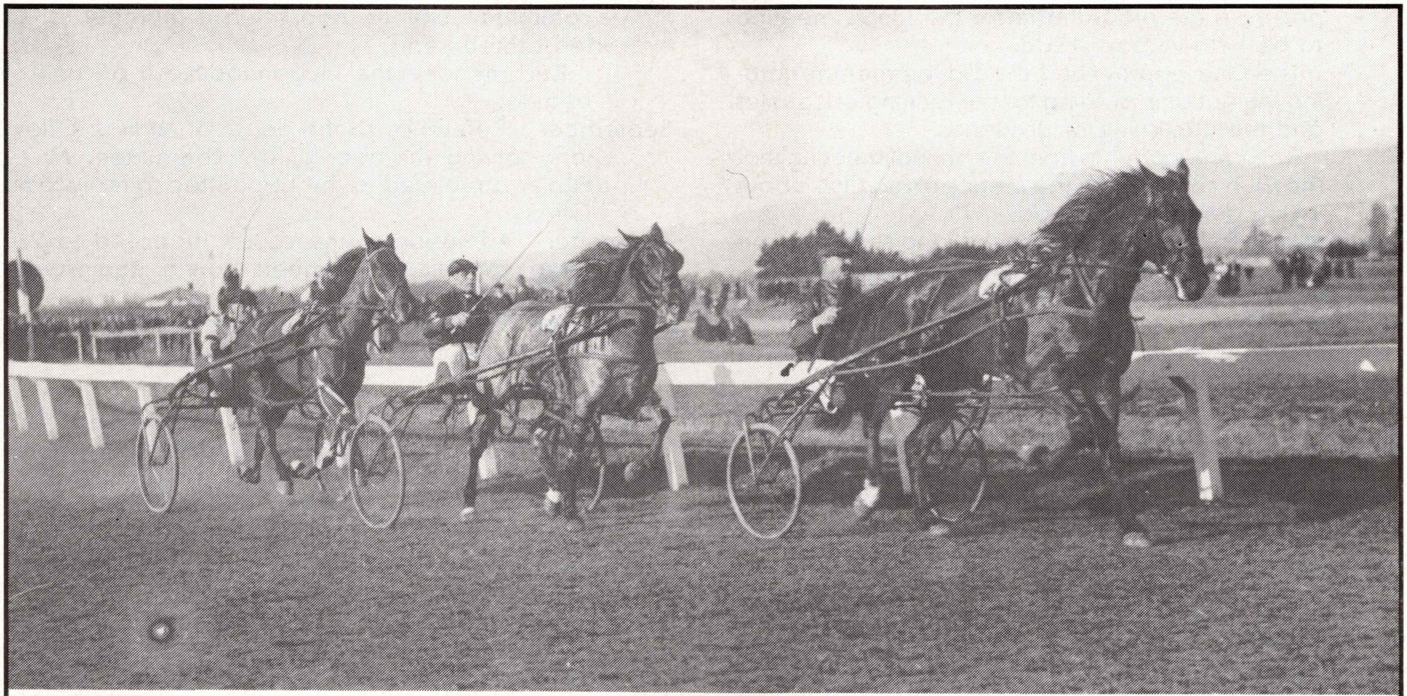
1935

January Resolved to obtain information about racing on a Saturday instead of on the day of the King's Birthday.

May Mr E. G. Shipley wrote to the Club offering to install loudspeakers on the course. The offer was declined.

July The committee was directed to investigate the installation of an electric totalisator.

August Owners and Breeders' Association protested against the Club racing on the same day as the Oamaru Jockey Club. Conference advised that the Club could not race on March 21.



Action from Plumpton Park in 1921. Logan Queen, driven by Free Holmes, leads Taraire (J. Bryce) and Childe Pointer (D. Warren) with a round to go in the Maturity Handicap on June 4, 1921. The race, worth 350 sovereigns, was won by Childe Pointer by four lengths over Taraire with two lengths to Logan Queen, then a 3-year-old filly. The winner took 3:28.4 for the mile and a half.

October Letter received from the Owners and Breeders' Association regarding the insurance of racing sulkies.

December The Club declined to contribute towards the cost of sealing streets near the course as requested by the Waimairi County Council.

Decided to introduce win and place betting at the Club's meeting at New Year, 1936.

1936

April The Club became incorporated.

P. Burke and Company offered to renew their contract for three years at £260 a year or for five years at £280. The Club decided to enter into a contract for three years at £300.

May Agreed to purchase the Bell Punch automatic totalisator in conjunction with the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club.

December Letter received from the Metropolitan Club asking whether the Club would sell its interests in the grounds at Addington or whether consideration would be given to amalgamation of the two clubs. Sub-committee appointed to investigate the position and report back to the committee within three months. Agreed to instal loudspeakers to be used at the New Year meeting to direct investors to vacant selling windows.

1937

May Club donated 50 guineas to a national fund for the establishment of children's health camps.

July Requests received from several persons for refund of expenses involved in the two postponements occurring at the Club's Winter meeting were declined.

Decided to include a race for two-year-old pacers in the programme for the Club's meeting to be held in May, 1938.

The Club approached the Government regarding legislation providing for the running of doubles and the publishing of dividends.

Recommendations from the annual meeting that the Club consult with the Metropolitan Club about laying down a grass track.

September Reference made to the long service to the Club of Mr James Leslie, who had died recently. Mr M. O'Brien appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee.

The erection of a new numbers' board was approved.

Mr Rae was appointed totalisator manager at a salary of £120 a year.

1938

July Club increased fee to £10/10/- for daily service by the St. John Ambulance Association.

Letter received from Health Department regarding the standard of cleanliness in connection with catering. "Matter attended to."

September Mr Donovan appointed totalisator manager at £100 a year on September 7. Two weeks later he resigned.

The purchase and erection of a totalisator indicator board was approved.

Application by Whippet Racing Club to lease land to hold races was declined.

October The Club decided to run its own totalisator, rather than appoint a manager.

November The secretary's assistant was appointed to take full charge of all totalisator operations.

1939

July Remit to be sent to the New Zealand Trotting Conference suggesting that a race restricted to stablehands be included in each programme.

Agreed to assist the Metropolitan Club with the purchase of land at the back of the course owned by the Butler Timber Co.

Resolved to pay £750 towards the cost of a new grandstand in the outside enclosure.

Mr Julius moved that no person be elected to the committee until he had been a member for at least three years.

Recomended the Club introduce a 5/- unit of betting.

September Reference to the death of Mr H. J. Otley, long-serving member of the committee. Mr C. Flavell appointed to the committee to replace Mr Otley.

December Admission to the course increased to 2/-, three committee members voting against the decision.

The Whippet Racing Club succeeded in its application to hold a meeting on the course.

1940

February Mr H. E. Goggin, the totalisator manager, sent in his reports for the January and February meetings, disclosing shortages. It was resolved the totalisator staff make good any shortages.

May Death of Mr W. F. Parkinson recorded.

June Application from Mr D. B. Clarkson for the position of commentator was held over.

Mr H. F. Nicoll wrote to the Club suggesting that Ashburton and Canterbury Park race on King's Birthday on alternate years.

July Recommended by the committee that races for 13f be run in place of those over $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Approved that £2,000 be paid to the Government for war purposes.

October Mr D. B. Clarkson appointed commentator.

Dave Clarkson, one of New Zealand's most famous commentators, who was hired by the Canterbury Park Club in 1940 and served it for more than 30 years.

1941

January Agreed to pay totalisator selling staff £2 a day, with an extra 10/- a day for January meetings.

February It was decided to donate £50 to the Kaikoura Trotting Club, which was in financial difficulty.

June Minutes appeared in typed form for the first time.

July Sinking fund of £300 a year approved for the totalisator replacement fund, the money to be invested at three per cent.

A suggestion that admission charges be reduced to 1/- was rejected.

August Death of Mr A. I. Rattray recorded. Mr H. E. Goggin appointed to replace Mr Rattray at £200 a year. Mr D. C. Parker appointed assistant secretary at no increase in salary.

Mr A. Dickson resigned as judge.

October Mr Karl Scott appointed judge at £15/15/- a day.

Agreed that no stake be less than £250 at the New Year meeting, with the stake for the main race set at £1,000.

Messrs C. S. Thomas and A. L. Tucker appointed honorary stewards.

November Mr E. R. Husband was paid £100 for his idea of introducing a false rail.

Proposed that a subway under the track be investigated.

December Reference made to the death of a former president, the Hon. G. Witty, M.L.C. F. J. Franks appointed to the committee. Ashburton Club granted permission to race at Addington on Boxing Day.

The judge was allowed to appoint an assistant.

1942

January Meeting postponed and second day held on January 10.

Subway under the track approved, but work delayed because of war.

Grounds taken over by military authorities.

Proposed that the Club's February meeting be held at New Brighton.

February Decided that in future no claims for lost or destroyed totalisator tickets be recognised under any circumstances.

CANTERBURY PARK'S DATES

Traditionally the Club raced at the New Year (two days) and in May (two days).

Then, in the 1935–36 season, the Club split its two-day Winter Meeting, instituting an Autumn Meeting (one day) in February. It was first held on February 15, 1936, with totalisator receipts of £19,289.

In February, 1942, the Club's Autumn Meeting was held on the New Brighton track.

In 1942–43 the Club was reduced to just one fixture, the two-day New Year meeting. At that stage the New Brighton Club still had two dates and the NZMTC had six.

In 1945–46 the Club resumed its three-fixture status.

In 1951–52 the Club had no Summer Meeting.

In 1958 the Club had only one New Year date and two Autumn dates in February.

In February, 1963, the Club ran a twilight meeting for the first time.

In 1964–65 the Club had an extra date—one Summer and one Autumn date.

In 1967–68 the Club raced in October, which proved to be a oncer. At that meeting they ran a mobile two mile race, quite a rarity, which was won by Wipe Out (I. D. McLaren) in 4:17.4.

In 1969 the Club raced on Anzac Day.

In 1972–73 the Club had five dates—New Year (two days), and one each in February, May and June.

In 1973–74 the October date returned.

In 1976–77 the Club had two October dates, two in January and one each in February and May.

In 1978–79 the Club had three October dates, two in January, and one each in February and May.

May Mr R. Wallace, Club treasurer for 36 years, died.

Club advised that because of further cut in racing days it would not be allowed to race on May 23.

August Decided to remove the false rail.

Mr C. E. Cross resigned as a steward, but retained a seat on the committee.

November Fourth prizes would be paid in every race.

December Mr C. H. Stonyer resigned as clerk of scales and replaced by Mr C. Smith.

New Brighton granted permission to race at Addington on February 20, 1943.

1943

July New rules of the Club adopted.

September Mr A. J. Toon appointed totalisator manager.

The death of Mr C. E. Cross reported. Mr R. T. McMillan appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee.

Club offered same rental as previously to Hospital Board on the grounds of improvements; use of the grounds as a military camp; occupation of the tea rooms by the Hospital Board as an emergency hospital free of rent; and racing days cut by 50 per cent.

October Mr J. E. W. Cross suggested that the Club sell the lease of the course back to the Metropolitan Club as the burden of maintaining the property was becoming too great for his Club. No action was taken.

December Club decided it was not in favour of selling Addington back to the Metropolitan Club in the meantime.

Committee agreed to the terms of new lease with Hospital Board, *viz*. £1,500 per year with a re-assessment every ten years and the right of renewal for a further 20 years.

1944

January Trotting Association advised the starting points for two-mile and 1$^{1}/_{4}$-mile points had been re-measured. Safety number now 14 plus three.

February Auditors advised £890/7/6 necessary for trust account for shortages etc., at summer meeting.

Karl Scott advised his judge's assistant was Mr J. O'Donnell, of Greymouth, and sought payment of three guineas a day. Matter held over.

Conference handicapper, Mr G. Paul, resigned and was replaced by Mr A. R. Neilson.

Metropolitan Club advised Annex Totalisator had been erected solely by them and sought share of cost from Canterbury Park of £1,238. Committee decided to give the matter "consideration."

March Mr D. B. Clarkson given pay rise as announcer. Now paid £7/7/-. Committee decided to make fresh arrangements with NZMTC for the payment of upkeep of the Addington grounds and that the basis be on a yearly totalisator turnover.

April Canterbury Park resolved to pay rent of £1,200 per annum to the Metropolitan Club and proportions of overheads payable by each club be one-fifth with the Metropolitan Club paying four-fifths. The Club decided it would not contribute to the cost of any further stands.

May Death recorded of Dr P. A. Ardagh, long-serving Club steward, whilst overseas. Brigadier Ardagh's wife was made a life member.

Ground committee reported the military were vacating the grounds.

June Wellington Club relinquished a permit and offered it to Canterbury Park, who accepted it and decided to race on July 1.

Gate charges for up-coming Patriotic meeting set at 2/- (outside) and 3/- (enclosure).

August Matson and Co. sought permission to hold its first annual yearling sale on the Addington course on November 3.

New Brighton Club sounded out Canterbury Park about its attitude if New Brighton decided to race permanently at Addington.

Club applied for two extra permits.

Club instituted a memorial to Dr Ardagh, agreeing to give three guineas a year to the most outstanding medical student at the Christchurch Public Hospital. Four chromium-plated cots donated to the children's ward as part of the Ardagh Memorial.

September Whippet Club given permission to meet at Addington on September 30 to sell war bonds.

Club agreed to give £25 each to horseman F. Holmes, J. Bryce and R. Townley, who retired at the end of October.

December Metropolitan Club sought urgent replies to proposals submitted re the Addington course. The Met. was advised Canterbury Park felt such an important matter deserved the consideration of a full meeting of members.

Club decided to limit bets at the selling windows in the Stewards' and Members' Stands to £5 and only 10/- tickets to be paid out on those stands.

Form for placed horses was included in the race cards.

1945

January Club's solicitor, Mr F. I. Cowlishaw, advised the lease of the Addington course from the Hospital Board would be referred to the Rents Commission of the Stabilisation Emergency Regulations.

Mrs F. C. Parsons, who had been in charge of the Ladies' Cloak Room for 25 years, resigned through ill health. Club sent her a cheque for £25.

February Mr R. G. Cooper appointed caretaker to replace the late Mr J. Highsted. New caretaker authorised to buy a back-cutter and "flame-thrower" for the tractor.

April Club offered to sell its interest in Addington to the Met., for £27,000 provided the Club could race on the course permanently on payment of 1¼ per cent of its totalisator turnover.

June Mr Karl Scott re-appointed as judge, having placed his position in the hands of the committee as Mr F. A. Jarrett had recently gained several judging positions since his return from overseas.

Club agreed to pay share of the cost of a "silent typewriter" for use at judicial enquiries.

July Mr D. B. Clarkson's fees rose to £10/10/- a day.

September Club received an extra permit.

Met. advised clubs should not let buildings for functions to outside bodies because of fire risk.

Clerk of scales, Mr C. H. Smith, resigned. Replaced by Mr L. T. Woodward.

Canterbury OTB sought approval for a pass for professional trainers to gain entry to meetings. Club turned it down.

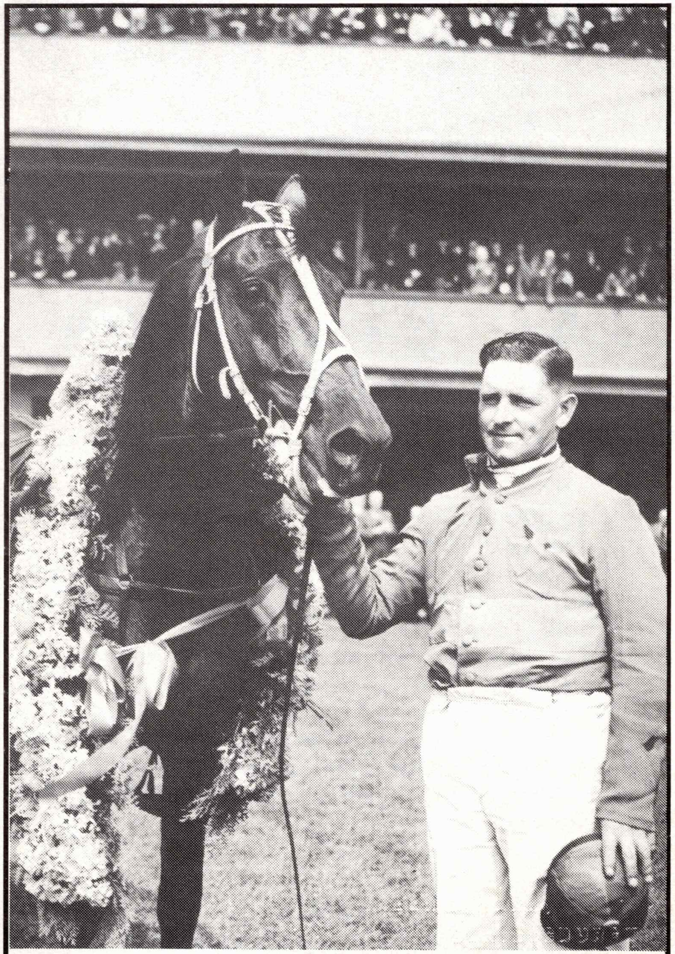
Club farrier, Mr F. Johnston, resigned. Replaced by Mr L. G. Archer.

New Brighton Club advised of terms for racing at Addington—one-third of gross totalisator betting up to £40,000; one per cent on all amounts over that figure.

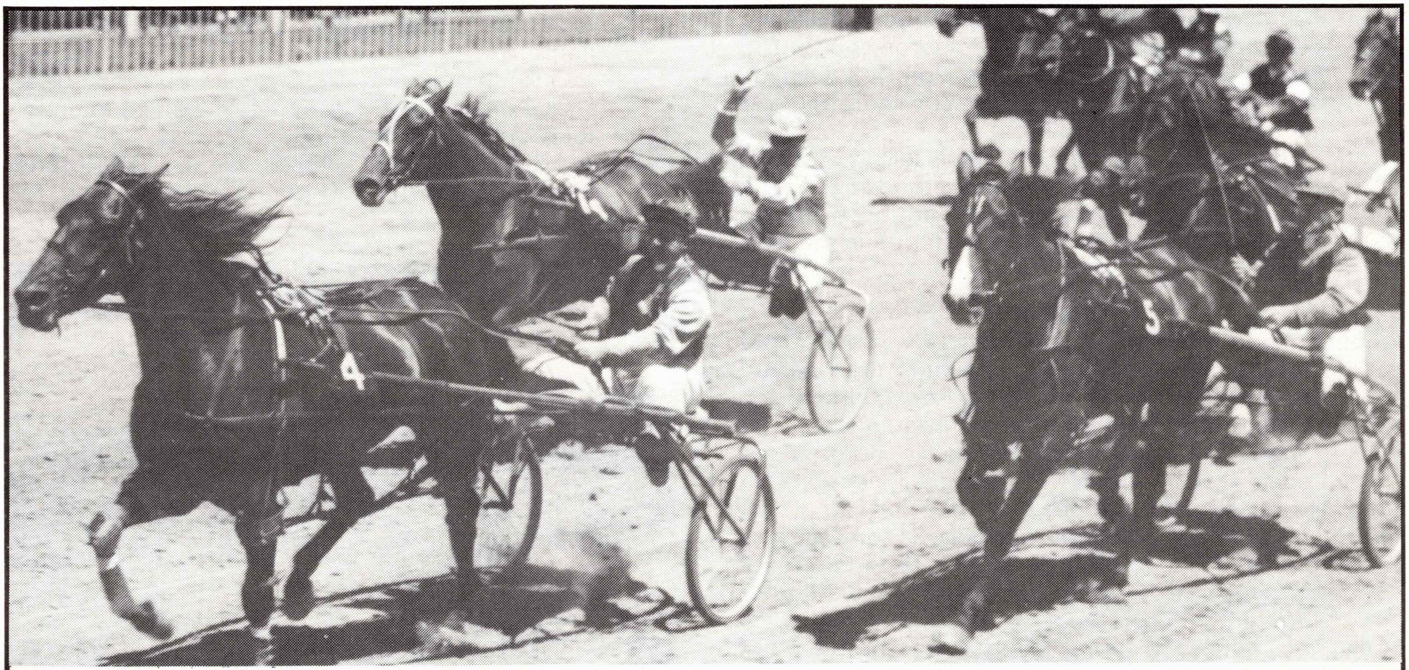
Club decided to fill in the lake on the course.

Club proposed to apply for four firemen to undertake duties on race days.

October Stabilisation Commissioner endorsed Hospital Board lease of £1,500 per annum rental as "fair rent".



Brilliant pacer Gold Bar and his trainer-driver Allan Holmes, who time-trialled at a Canterbury Park meeting in 1942 over one mile in 1:59.6.



The finish of the 1943 Canterbury Handicap and Navigate (Howie Smith) is too strong for Plunder Bar (5) and Turco (middle).

New Brighton Club sought reduction in terms. Agreed to reduce to half a per cent on all betting over £40,000.

Kaikoura Club sought permission to race at Addington should their own course not be available. Granted.

December Death of Mr Morgan O'Brien recorded.

Mr Karl Scott resigned as judge. Mr Jarrett appointed new judge.

Club "not interested" in the siren installed by the NZMTC to advise public of race day enquiries.

Caretaker's wages increased by £100 to £500 per year.

1946

January Totalisator shortages for summer meeting of £103/15/- paid. Decided not to employ in future sellers at the £5 window who were £20 short and that their wages be retained.

Canterbury Park withdrew its offer to sell to the NZMTC because of "changed circumstances".

Derry's Band successfully sought additions to its numbers from 15 to 20 after complaints about its performance at the New Year meeting.

Settlement with the Military. Terms agreed to: Military to supply nine 20×8 Army huts of an equivalent value of £450 and also £80 cash for repairs to the ashphalt.

February Tramways Union advised it would not hold the trams at the racecourse later than 4 p.m. for future meetings. Resolved to start first race in future at 11 a.m.

March Totalisator manager, Mr A. J. Toon, got a salary rise to £700, but warned it may be subject to review "in the event of a recession of totalisator turnover".

Grass tracks on the inside of the main track were installed for use by the patrol stewards' car to help ease the dust problem on racedays.

May Approval given for the installation of the photo-finish equipment.

A lease in perpetuity of the Addington grounds gained from the Hospital Board.

July Canterbury Rugby Football League applied for use of Addington to play the English team on July 27. Granted.

August Another offer to sell to the NZMTC for £27,000 made, as long as the Club could race at Addington for 1¼ per cent of the gross totalisator turnover.

New Brighton advised new terms of racing at Addington—one per cent up to £50,000 and half of one per cent over £50,000.

The Met. purchased 12 selling machines for the totalisator and asked if Canterbury Park wished to "join in with them". Club agreed but requested that before any future purchases are made the Club be consulted "prior to the commitment".

Metropolitan Club's proposals on Canterbury Park's offer deemed unacceptable.

October Canterbury Park agreed to use the Metropolitan Club's siren as a universal method of advising the public of an inquiry.

Death recorded of Club's solicitor, Mr Cowlishaw.

November Mr W. D. Robinson appointed Club's Hon. Veterinary Surgeon.

December Request from *Bettle's Sporting Digest* for Press Room admission declined.

Canterbury OTB requested mile and a half events be dropped from future programmes.

Club decided to be represented at the Gaming Commission by its solicitor.

1947

January Club's timekeeper, Mr H. Reynolds, resigned. Mr A. L. Lewis appointed as replacement.

February United Caterers advised they would soon be tendering for catering at Addington.

Club invited to witness demonstration of Automatic Totalisator's new ticket issuing machine on March 13.

Hot water now available in public car park.

July Club donated £75 to the fund for the retirement of Trotting Conference president, Mr H. F. Nicoll.

Mr H. V. Spicer appointed judge's assistant.

Club decided to erect a semaphore board for drivers' names "near the mound".

Hospital Board advised it wanted to vary the existing arrangement to the proposed new lease to provide for a 100-year lease rather than the suggested lease-in-perpetuity.

Mr H. P. Smith appointed Club's solicitor.

Mr A. Rose asked if provision had been made for fire protection since the lake had been filled in. Mr C. Flavell, chairman of the grounds committee, replied, saying all necessary provision had been carried out.

September Club agreed to take up the lease as offered by the Hospital Board.

OTB successfully sought permission to hold trials at Addington on September 23.

October Totalisator manager, Mr A. J. Toon, got a pay increase of £150, but Club advised the NZMTC it believed Mr Toon had reached the limit of his salary.

Judge was advised he must inspect a photo-finish print after each race.

November Shipleys suggested "mechanical music" be installed at Addington.

Matson and Co. asked for a reduction from £1 to 10/- a head for the yearling sales.

Conference requested that announcers not give the amount of investments over the air.

Club sought equal representation on the board of trustees with an alternating chairman.

December A fire alarm system was to be installed in the Members' Stand, with extinguishers placed in all rooms.

Shipleys was to give its mechanical music idea a trial over the holidays and, if successful, to be used at the New Year meeting.

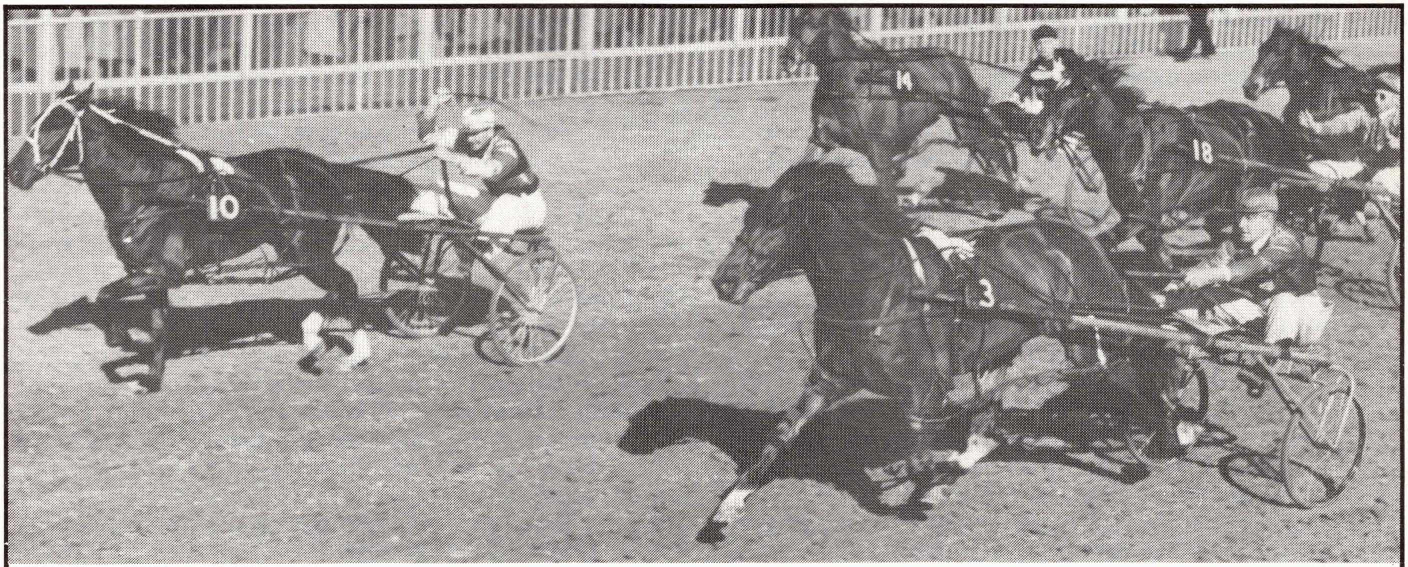
Met. increased office rental to £150 per annum.

Judge's salary increased to £20 per day and commentator to £16/13/4.

1948

January Burkes sent a complaint for not opening cafeteria under the Inside Stand at New Year meeting. Burkes warned not to repeat this or the Club will be compelled to consider other arrangements. Burkes claimed lack of staff was the reason.

Club's proportion of overhead to the NZMTC was £3,543/4/10.



The 1947 Canterbury Park Juvenile Stakes goes to Hilda Scott (Stan Edwards; 10), beating Congo Song (3), Sir Vivian (18) and Viceroy (14).

Permit granted for erection of new entrance gates.

February Met. advised they were in favour of erection of new ramp for an additional fire escape from the Members' Stand.

Mr Flavell, of the grounds committee, stated the Canterbury Park Trotting Club did not favour this ramp, claiming it would be "extremely difficult to set the stand on fire on raceday in view of the precautions taken by staff and the scarcity of inflammable material in the building".

March Judge Jarrett advised not to put up any numbers on raceday until a photograph had been inspected.

June Club sent a letter from the stipendiary stewards drawing attention to the condition of a patrol steward, Mr J. S. Connolly, at the May meeting. Mr Connolly was to be approached for an explanation.

November Clerk of the course, Mr R. A. Ferguson, granted an increase in wages to £8/8/- per day.

December Mr A. L. Lewis resigned as timekeeper. Replaced by Mr I. M. Willoughby.

1949

March Club levied £165/10/- as its share of cost of advertising the proposed off-course betting scheme.

June Club declined application for accommodation on "the stand" for owners and wives.

July Club in favour of the New Zealand Trotting Association being absorbed by the New Zealand Trotting Conference.

Grounds committee chairman reported damage to horse boxes, fences and glass in a recent gale.

Club cut back on stakes by £1,000 a day after a report from finance committee on the Club's declining finances.

November Club agreed to introduce doubles betting at its New Year meeting on the fourth and sixth races.

December Matson and Co. reacted unfavourably to the Club's suggestion to charge share of commission for the yearling sales at Addington.

Leo Berkett guides the brilliant skewbald mare Snowflake to an easy win in the President's Handicap, run at the Canterbury Park meeting in February, 1949. Right Royal (16) and Dragoman (13) fill the minor placings.

1950

January Chief stipendiary steward, Mr F. J. Beer, attended meeting and reported on the demonstration following the running of Lyceum at the New Year meeting. Resolved to write to the Conference asking that the stipendiary stewards be instructed to make public the result of all official inquiries at the Club's meetings.

Also resolved only written reports of inquiries be handed to the Press for publication.

March Conference advised it is now permissible for commentators to broadcast to the end of the race on courses where photo-finish equipment was in use.

Club resolved to provide "a runner" for the use of the president on race days.

May Photographers' stand erected behind the starter's stand at the winning post.

July Change in control of the course imminent.

August Resolved to limit membership of Canterbury Park to 700.

Provision now made for the new office of immediate-past president.

December Club decided to run parade for two-year-olds (two divisions) at the New Year meeting.

Architects submit a plan for a new house for the course superintendent.

1951

March Club expressed disappointment in the lack of progress in establishing the Trust Board to run Addington.

May An offer by Mr Leo Berkett to parade Highland Fling for £100 was declined.

Conference set safety limit at Addington at 18 as from August 1.

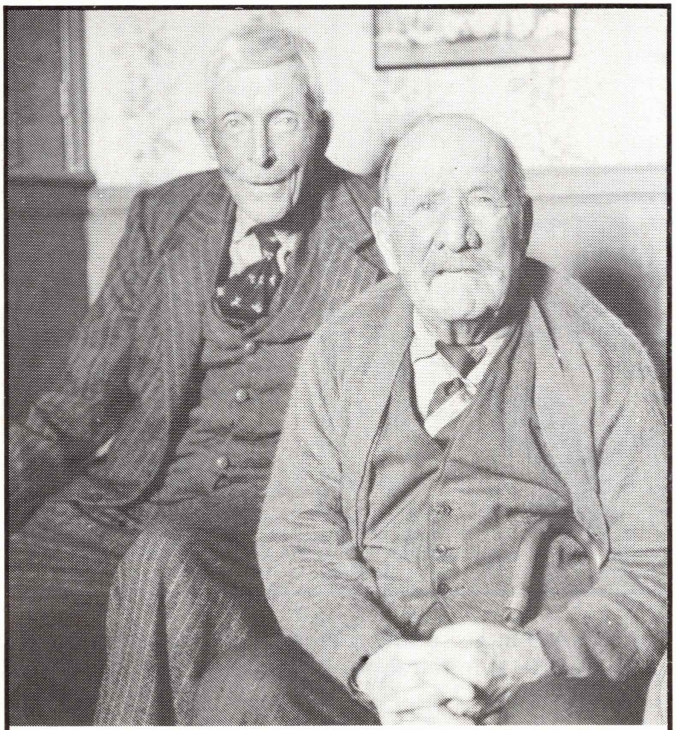
July Club was preparing to transfer lease of grounds to "Addington Trotting Course Trust, Limited".

December Grounds committee reported the Christchurch Fire Board recorded nine small fires at Addington on November 17.

1952

January Club treasurer, Mr C. S. Peate advised expenditure would have to be curtailed.

February Mr L. S. Smart appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Mr J. F. Franks.



Two well-known faces from the past. That's "Old" Free Holmes at right and Loudon Donald, the latter being remembered for his many years as a birdcage steward. This photo was taken in August, 1963. Holmes was 92 and Donald 89.

Meeting on February 9 abandoned. Club allocated May 17 as a replacement date, but this also turned down and the Club given June 7.

June Club appointed directors of Addington Trotting Course, Limited, namely: Messrs H. H. Wauchop, J. E. W. Cross and W. Milne Shand.

July Club replied to Wellington Trotting Club correspondence stating it was in favour of the 5/- unit of betting for doubles.

First meeting of Addington Trotting Course, Limited, held and Metropolitan Club given first chairmanship.

Membership of Club increased to 800.

Decided to join with the NZMTC and New Brighton Clubs and hold regular trials for maiden horses.

Qualifying trials introduced around this time.

September Club agreed with Burkes to delete "poultry, ham, and crayfish" from the menu of the Members' Luncheon.

October Long-serving steward, Mr C. Flavell, resigns from committee through ill-health. Replaced by Mr V. J. McKibbin.

November Club sought permission from Conference to run concession doubles.

Resolved all place dividends be paid at any window.

December Death recorded of Mr H. E. Goggin.

1953

January Mr D. C. Parker appointed secretary to the three clubs as from January 1 at £1,000 per year.

Letter from Inland Revenue Department requesting the Club to furnish particulars in connection with persons receiving dividends of £500 or more. Legal opinion sought. Solicitor, Mr H. P. Smith, recommended the Club should abide by Inland Revenue request.

1954

January Public barred from the area inside the main track at Addington following recommendation from totalisator manager.

March Club's judicial steward not consulted by the stipendiary stewards when they withdrew the licences of the seven probationary horsemen who drove in the Probationary Handicap at the Club's meeting on Saturday, February 13. The race was won by Dancing Years (Reg Stockdale), which recorded 4:43 for the two miles on a fast track. The action was taken on the grounds of incompetent reinsmanship by all contestants. Subsequently the licences were returned but again the club's judicial steward was not consulted.

Mr F. A. Jarrett, the club's judge, resigned.

May Club authorised the ordering of 10,500 race cards for its Winter meeting.

July Mr F. E. Sutton resigned as a member of the committee. Mr H. H. Wauchop appointed to fill that vacancy.

September Mr H. V. Spicer appointed Club's judge with Mr M. Mace his assistant.

November The establishment of a men-only bar in the Members' Stand was approved.

December A total of 25,500 race cards ordered for the two-day New Year meeting.

1955

May Helicopter from HMAS *Sydney* carrying Club's vice-president , Mr Fred Sutton, landed in the birdcage after the first race at the Club's Winter meeting.

July Mr J. B. F. Wright appointed assistant totalisator manager.

September Club contributed to the cost of purchasing books for the Upper Riccarton Memorial Library in memory of the late Sir John McKenzie.

Club decided the course safety limit of 20 be retained as there had been no serious accidents on the course.

Club favoured the retention of two enclosures.

November Club's share of TAB profit was £8,704.

December Number of horses permitted to start in the second row of a race was increased from three to five.

1956

February Racebook wastage for the New Year meeting was 5,490.

March Two doctors tied for the Ardagh Memorial Prize. Resolved that the usual seven guineas be granted and the Hospital Board be asked to divide it as it deemed fit.

Clerk of the course, Mr R. A. Ferguson, resigned.

June Mr L. Woods appointed clerk of the course.

August Club agreed to pay £200 towards the stakes for the first totalisator meeting of the Banks Peninsula Trotting Club.

Club against modernising totalisator equipment at Addington on the grounds that "the present machinery, with normal maintenance, could be operated with a reasonable margin of accuracy for a number of years".

October Mr F. B. Price appointed Club's assistant to the veterinary surgeon for the swabbing of horses.

The Club approved, in principle, that there be only one enclosure.

November Club offered free admission to race meetings for children 15 years and under if they were accompanied by a parent or guardian.

1957

January Mr H. H. Wauchop, member of the committee, awarded an OBE.

May Mr J. E. W. Cross expressed concern as to how the club would meet its financial commitments regarding the new stand and totalisator control room equipment.

June Mr A. J. Toon advised he would retire as totalisator manager from July 31.

July A steward of the Club was suspended for six months for having tampered with a ballot paper in a recent election of officers.

August Death recorded of former president, Mr W. Milne Shand.

Mr J. B. F. Wright appointed totalisator manager.

November Hororata Trotting Club given £200 for its inaugural meeting.

December Death of Club's life member, Mr A. L. Matson, recorded.

1958

January Special meeting held on New Year's Day at 4.45 p.m. After hearing a report from course superintendent, Mr Cooper, it was decided to abandon the second day of the Club's New Year meeting because of bad weather. The Club applied for another date in February and set a limit of £5,250 on stakes to be paid.

The Club showed a loss of £1,655 on its New Year meeting.

CANTERBURY PARK "TRIVIA"

Dalgelia won the Introductory Trot at the meeting on January 1 1959, and paid £72/16/-. He was trained and driven by I. S. Sutherland.

★ ★ ★

Tibet won a probationary drivers' race in May 1964, for J. B. Smale, paying £70/11/-.

★ ★ ★

Templeton trainer Denis Nyhan achieved a rare two minute double at the New Year meeting in the 1973–74 season. He won the TAB double with Robalan (1:57.6) and Van Glory (1:59.6) which paid $3.10.

The Club was allocated February 11 (a Tuesday), making the Summer meeting a two-day affair.

February Mr T. A. Leitch suggested a four-wheel drive vehicle may be necessary to transport stewards to look-outs at race meetings when the track was too wet for the usual patrol car.

March Club lost £3,182 on its two-day Summer meeting.

Club applied to run a Royal race meeting to coincide with the visit of Princess Margaret.

April Club decided to discontinue with the practice of inviting the stewards of the Metroplitan and New Brighton Trotting Clubs to meet in the president's room after the third race.

June Bank of New Zealand advised monies from the tote would be counted during banking hours and not at night after the races. This came about through the introduction of PAYE tax and it was not the Club's policy to "employ staff at overtime rates".

Retirement, after 40 years of service, of totalisator worker Mr D. Taylor.

Canterbury OTB advised it was in favour of filming races at Addington. Canterbury Park in favour of this.

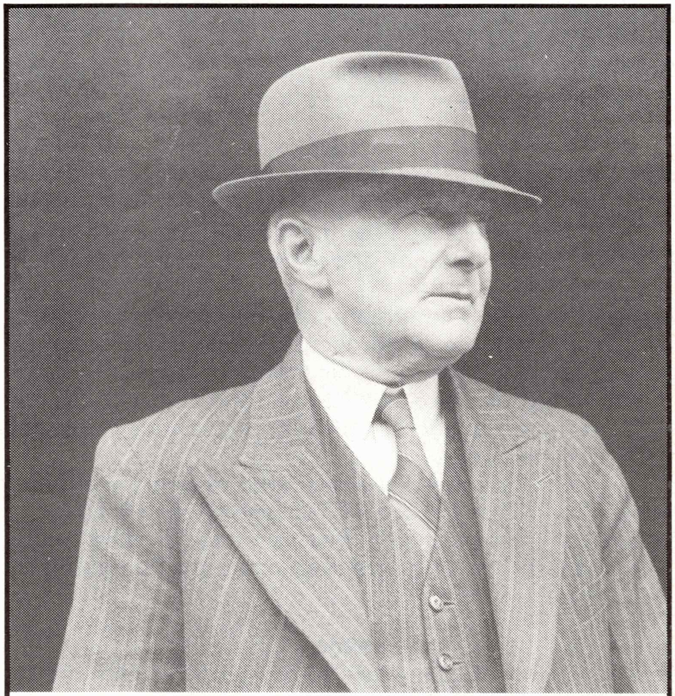
Letter received from D. Ross McKay, photographer, apologising for trying to catch a driverless horse at the recent Winter meeting.

Death of former president, Mr J. E. W. Cross recorded. Mr T. A. Leitch appointed to fill the vacancy on the committee.

October Special meeting at Addington with a deputation of New Zealand Horsemen's Association regarding the state of the track. Mr D. C. Watts said the oil used to help ease the dust problem had ruined colours and gear. It was resolved to grade the track, removing the oil, dig the track up, and relay it and topdress with crusher dust.

Mr L. M. Denton and Mr L. S. Smart co-opted to the programme committee to help formulate the New Year programme.

December Over-crowding in the drivers' room eased when the Club decided to bar horse attendants from that area plus amateur drivers and trainers who did not have a horse engaged at the meeting.



Bert Hastings . . . starter at Canterbury Park meetings for many years.

Mr F. B. Price resigned as swabbing steward. Replaced by Mr N. G. Mason at seven guineas a day.

1959

February Club discontinued the buffet served in the male members' bar at £18 per day.

April Conference advised that Mr A. J. Hastings' licence as starter would expire on July 31 and would not be renewed. Club decides to make a presentation of 20 guineas to Mr Hastings.

June Death of Mr L. M. Denton recorded. Mr H. F. Butland appointed to committee.

Club's timekeeper, Mr A. C. C. Robilliard, resigned.

Mr Hastings advised he hoped to carry on as deputy starter.

July Mr J. O'Grady appointed timekeeper to the three clubs.

The question of night trotting at Addington raised by Addington Trotting Course, Limited.

Mr Ron Carter appointed the Club's starter.

Work progressing well on the new stand.

August Special committee decided if night trotting is introduced it should be restricted from mid-December to mid-March; that six day permits be converted to night permits.

September Moves to change starting times for New Year meeting to 2 p.m. and the last race to 7 p.m. were held over until next meeting.

October Special meeting recommended New Year meeting to start at 1.30 p.m. as a trial. Agreed to with the last race starting at 6 p.m.

NEECO Lighting and Illumination Ltd provided a quote of £61,696/15/- for the lighting of Addington for night trotting.

November After encountering considerable opposition to the proposed late starting times for the New Year meeting, the Club decided to go back to the usual 11.30 a.m. starting time. This later amended to 11.15 a.m.

Mr J. B. F. Wright paid an extra £200 per year after being offered a position with the Auckland Racing Club.

JUVENILE TROTTING RACES

The Canterbury Park Trotting Club was a prime mover in the programming of races for two-year-old trotters.

On May 27, 1967, they instituted the New Zealand Kindergarten Trotting Stakes. Worth £300, the mobile mile event was won by Oscar, trained and driven by Noel Berkett, then operating from stables in Yaldhurst.

Oscar trotted the mile in 2:16. The race was won in 1968 by Ninety Days (H. S. Donaldson, 2:16.2), in 1969 by Clarence Leslie (J. D. Litten, 2:16.6) and in 1970 by Macamba (G. A. Laing, 2:59.2 for 1¼ miles).

In the 1969–70 season Canterbury Park staged three non-totalisator events for two-year-olds, in January, February and May.

The first two were won by Milford Sister (L. R. Clark) and the other by Macamba.

1960

January Mr H. F. Butland resigned as a steward. Replaced by Mr F. W. Jarman. Two other stewards resigned and were replaced by Messrs F. R. Brebner and B. G. Donovan.

February Mr R. G. Cooper resigned as course superintendent after 18 years' service.

Club secretary, Mr D. C. Parker, and totalisator manager, Mr J. B. F. Wright, recommended the installation of a ribbon-type indicator board.

April The question of amalgamation arose at a meeting of the three clubs, being sponsored by Mr W. M. Ollivier on behalf of the NZMTC. Resolved the matter was "untimely" and should be dropped.

June Club decided to pay 30 per cent of its TAB distribution to Addington Trotting Course, Limited, as additional rental. Some £3,000 was uplifted from the TAB.

Mr A. G. Green resigned as swabbing-veterinary surgeon. Replaced by Mr R. C. J. Mackay.

Mr J. Rowley resigned as assistant secretary.

August Membership increased to 1,100.

Mr T. H. Davis appointed assistant secretary.

October Club agreed to delay for at least 12 months a proposal to display the drivers' names for the TAB double on the doubles totalisator.

Club took legal action to recover monies owed from Messrs McMullan (£35/10/2) and Redden (£45/16/5), who had been convicted of forging totalisator tickets.

Safety limit of fields reduced to 16, with a maximum second line of three.

November New Members' Stand opened.

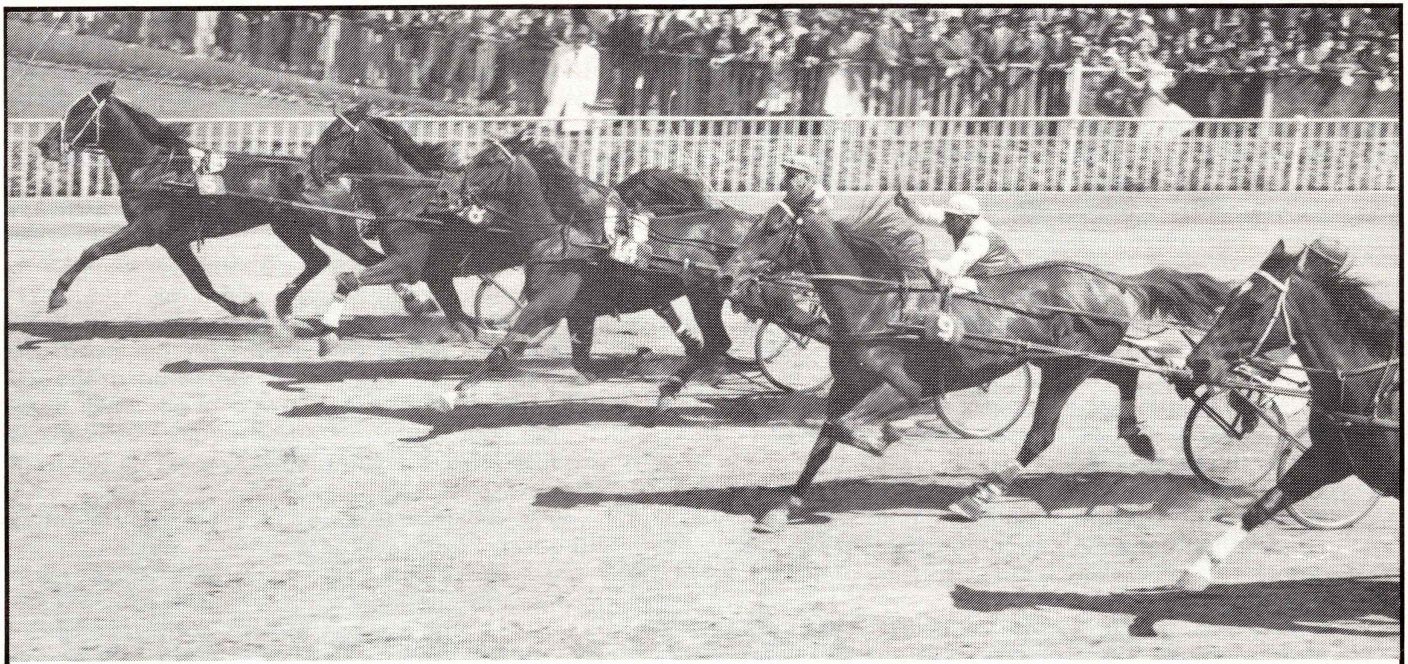
December Further complaints from Horsemans' Association regarding the shadow on the track cast by the winning post. Resolved there was "no practical solution to this problem".

1961

March Retirements of Messrs J. Arnott and Robertson from totalisator staff, both having given 40 years service.

Final cost of Members' Stand given as £139,526/17/- (original contract price was £137,355).

Membership increased to 1,200.



The straight-out trotter has always been a favourite with the Canterbury Park Club and this photo is the good reason why. Here Mighty Brigade (5) wins the Hornby Handicap in January, 1959, from Supervise (8), Beau Clair (14), Captain Spider (9) and White Wings.

April Assistant judge appointed to sound the bell warning drivers of the final lap, but it was not to be used at the Winter meeting.

Clerk of the course, Mr L. Woods, resigned.

October Club put picture of Worthy Queen on cover of racebook.

November Public grandstand burnt down on Show Day, November 10.

December Number of members' badges sold at 10/- limited to 50.

Clerk of the course, Mr Clarrie Williams, given a rise in pay to £10 per day and allowed to purchase a new uniform.

1962

January Past-president, Mr C. S. Peate, resigned from directorate of Addington Trotting Course, Limited. Succeeded by Mr L. S. Smart.

Mr F. E. Sutton reported patrol stewards were investing on races, against the Rules of Trotting. Letter sent to stewards reminding them of their obligations.

March Mr L. S. Smart given power to introduce a mobile starting gate for the Winter meeting.

Commercial Union forwarded cheque of £37,500 in settlement for indemnity cover for the public stand burnt down in November. Commercial Union advised that the raceway would receive £118,500 when new stand completed.

April Timekeeper, Mr J. O'Grady, resigned.

Ford Mainline truck purchased and converted to a mobile gate, to be given a trial on May 17.

May Mr L. S. Smart asked to stay on for another two-year term as president.

Inside running track at Addington dispensed with and the area within the main training track ploughed, levelled and sown.

July Death of Club treasurer, Mr V. J. McKibbin.

Requests from Nelson and Waimate Trotting Clubs to hire mobile gate. Held over.

New Brighton Trotting Club made approaches to Canterbury Park and New Zealand Metroploitan Trotting Clubs seeking the terms if their club should race permanently at Addington.

Provisional patents sought for mobile gate.

Estimate of £180,900 given to build a new public stand, which included £15,900 consultants' fees. This meant the two clubs plus Addington Trotting Course, Limited, had to find the £62,400 difference between the estimate and the payout from Commercial Union. Canterbury Park to pay £19,200.

A. L. "Allan" Matson . . . a top trotting administrator in his day and closely involved with the Canterbury Park club.

Treasurers of the two clubs estimated they could find £225,000 from the current reserves to finance the building of a new stand and the introduction of night trotting. This would leave a shortfall of about £30,000, assuming night trotting cost £75,000.

On June 28 New Brighton asked to purchase $^{4}/_{17}$ths of total share capital in Addington Trotting Course, Limited, from the New Zealand Metropolitan and Canterbury Park Trotting Clubs to race full time at Addington. That offer would include the cost of the new stand but New Brighton would have to share the cost of the installation of night trotting equipment.

August Mr E. F. Mercer appointed to Club's committee.

Unit for first leg of TAB double changed to 10/- and 5/- for second leg.

Plans announced to have progressive dividends displayed around the course on closed-circuit TV at the 1962 New Zealand Cup meeting.

September Death of Mr R. T. McMillan. Replaced on committee by Mr S. C. Cordner. Messrs W. G. P. Cuningham and C. G. M. Parfitt elected stewards of the Club.

November Club decided not to charge the NZMTC for the use of the mobile gate that year. Water tower deemed unsafe. Old running rail at Addington replaced with a new low hub-rail in spite of objections from the Canterbury Owners and Breeders' Association.

Club membership increased to 1,300.

Cost of new stand and night trotting modifications now estimated at £300,000. Proposed to get a loan of £75,000 from the Commercial Union Co.

Fletcher Construction lowest tenderer for building new stand at £216,578. Still considered "too high" but negotiations with Fletchers continued.

Fletchers came back with another quote at £198,379.

Clubs agreed to final price of up to £200,000.

December Mooted that Club's offices be moved to a site at Addington. They were situated at 206 Oxford Terrace at that stage.

1963

January One hundred and twenty new horse stalls to be built at Addington at a cost of £11,787.

March Club requested Conference to amend rules so that fifth horses were required to weigh in.

July Special meeting of committee called. In attendance were Messrs L. S. Smart, H. F. Butland, S. C. Cordner, H. T. Fuller, T. A. Leitch, E. F. Mercer, F. E. Sutton, and I. J. Wilson—S. Andrews and C. S. Peate sent apologies. Meeting called to appoint two directors to Addington Trotting Course, Limited—Messrs Smart and Butland appointed. Mr Fuller stood down. Only two directors now required as New Brighton had joined the company.

August Stewards of Club suggested approaches be made to an oil company seeking sponsorship for a race at the Club's New Year meeting.

October Club agreed to cancel arrangements with Commercial Union to borrow £75,000.

The three clubs then agreed to loan the £75,000 to Addington Trotting Course, Limited.

Mr C. S. Peate resigned from the committee.

New Brighton club suggested the three Addington clubs make a joint application to hold the 1965 Inter-Dominions.

Moves to install an infield indicator.

Directors of Addington Trotting Course, Limited, now that New Brighton were included, were: Messrs L. S. Smart (Chairman), H. F. Butland, J. K. Davidson, C. E. Hoy, A. G. Jamieson, and A. E. Laing.

Trial night meeting held on October 16.

Fields for Club's New Year meeting restricted to just 14 horses.

Mr F. W. Jarman appointed to committee.

November Resignation from committee of Mr F. E. Sutton. Replaced by Mr B. G. Donovan. New public stand opened by Mr W. H. Roche, president of the New Zealand Trotting Conference, on Cup Day.

December S. P. Godfrey and Co. resigned as gate supervisors to the Club after many years' service.

Club membership increased to 1,400.

Introduction of nine-race programmes.

Mr E. F. Mercer resigned as a steward. Replaced after a two-way election by Mr I. S. Wales over Mr G. L. Bradbury.

Club decided to supply free 18 gallons of beer each night in the cash bar between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Special meeting called to discuss all aspects of management at Addington.

1964

March Sketch plans of proposed new office building at Addington presented.

April Recommended by directors a single-storey office building costing approximately £25,600 be erected.

Messrs S. Andrews and F. W. Jarman resigned as stewards. Replaced by Messrs G. L. Bradbury and R. H. Duff.

May Mr C. Anderson moved into course superintendent's house at Addington.

Mr B. G. Donovan resigned as steward. Replaced by Dr A. D. L. Hunter.

December Club allocated a new permit by the Minister of Internal Affairs. Decided to use it for a meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 1965.

Conference turned down Club's application to reduce the size of fields from 14 to 12.

Metropolitan Club advised that Canterbury Park committee did not approve of the mobile barrier being used for one race only at a meeting and that it shoud be used whenever suitable races were available.

1965

March Club advised that total cost of new public grandstand was £197,699.

Agreed to increase the price of race cards to 2/- starting at the Winter meeting.

Mr L. A. Smart appointed a steward.

June The Club was not in favour of the Hororata Trotting Club shifting to race at Addington.

May Advice received from Addington Trotting Course, Limited, that the tender of £43,736 from Atkinson and Forbes to build new offices at Addington Raceway had been accepted.

Two keen supporters of the mobile gate, George Noble (left) and Cecil Devine, pictured with Mr W. E. Desmond in 1961. In the background (left) is Mr Nick Matyasevic, a prominent trotting owner.

July Proposed that other clubs be encouraged to run non-totalisator races with stakes of £100 for three-year-old trotters. Canterbury Park decided to run such events for both two- and three-year-old trotters in 1965–66.

August Club told that the Hospital Board was to be approached regarding the purchase of Addington Raceway.

New Zealand Trotting Conference granted the use of half an acre of land fronting Lincoln Road.

Name of Addington Trotting Course, Limited, to be changed to Addington Raceway, Limited.

December Mr A. S. Farrar appointed a steward to replace Mr W. Price who had resigned.

1966

February Mr W. G. P. Cuningham appointed to the committee, replacing Mr H. T. Fuller, who had retired.

May Mr H. V. Spicer resigned as judge.

June New office building opened.

July Mr M. Mace appointed judge, with Mr R. F. McCoubrey as his assistant.

Club agreed to appoint paid patrol stewards.

October Mr G. L. Bradbury resigned as a steward of the Club, Dr H. G. Crofts being appointed to fill the vacancy.

December Mr M. Mace resigned as judge.

The Hospital Board advised that it would take no action over the sale of the land at Addington to the Raceway in view of the proposed Southern Motorway.

1967

March Mr R. F. McCoubrey appointed as judge.

April Experimental race filming introduced.

June Club not in favour of erection of plaques in memory of Messrs A. I. Rattray and H. E. Goggin. This decision later rescinded in August.

September Cafeteria mooted for drivers' room.

December Hospital Board advised the Ardagh Memorial Prize to be discontinued.

Club advised New Zealand Trotting Conference it was not in favour of the appointment of a public relations officer.

Request for the opening of a $5 window referred to the totalisator manager.

1968

February Deaths recorded of past-president, Mr H. H. Wauchop, and Mr R. W. Saunders of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club.

Club advised introduction of TAB concession doubles imminent.

Club resolved to reduced fields for mobile starts to 13.

April Club decided to continue to sponsor the Ardagh Memorial Prize donating $21 to buy a suitable book.

June Club agreed to pay an extra 30 per cent of its TAB distribution to Addington Raceway, Limited as additional rental.

Messrs H. F. Butland and I. J. Wilson elected as life members of the Club.

July Mr T. A. Leitch appointed to the committee to replace Mr S. C. Cordner, who had been elected vice-president.

October Post Office agreed to install a public telephone at Addington.

Demonstration of multi-vapour lamps for track lighting proved successful. Club recommended they be installed at Addington.

December Club agreed to put the actual age of horses in the racebook.

1969

March Conference apposed Club's proposal to run 13-horse mobile fields at Anzac Day meeting and also regarded the $3,000 proposed stake for a flying mile as "too low".

Club decided not to hold any more joint committee-stewards' meetings.

April TAB Head Office staff questioned the wisdom of the Club continuing to run its TAB double as a straight double and not a concession. Deputation sent to Wellington to discuss the matter.

May Conference insisted the Club run 14-horse mobile fields.

June Club suggested a Hall of Fame be installed at Addington.

July Conditions of jackpot betting at Addington formalised.

Mr P. B. Rennell appointed a steward.

DRIVING MILESTONES AT CANTERBURY PARK MEETINGS

The 1955–56 New Year meeting proved a bonanza for Templeton horseman Wes Butt.

He won the first race on the first day with Margaret Scott and racked up three more in succession later in the day with Merry Gold, Surfman and Lady Baffelan.

On the second day, January 2, Butt had to wait until the seventh race before further success, winning with Surfman. Then, in the last, he produced the quinella with Stadium Chief and Kingsdown Direct, the latter being driven by Jack Carmichael.

Earlier that day Butt had twice finished second, with Margaret Scott and Kingsdown Grattan.

Thus Butt won six of the 16 races.

At the 1966–67 New Year meeting Butt was again in good form, winning with Newport Maid, Golden Oriole and Johnny Gee (two).

Twinkle Hall gave Robert Cameron his first winning drive at Addington at a Canterbury Park meeting on May 23, 1959, in the Final Handicap.

Addington's last saddle race was run at a Canterbury Park meeting on May 28, 1960. It was run in divisions over 1¼ miles and won by Gentles (J. G. Crofts) 2:47, and Lucky Dora (R. J. Jones) 2:43.6.

Jack Litten's last winning drive at Addington was with Western Valley at Canterbury Park's New Year meeting, January 2, 1971.

Doug Watts' last Addington win was with Smokey Express in the 1971 Canterbury Park Winter Cup.

Bob Young's last Addington win was with Mark Gentry at the May meeting in 1971.

Maurice Holmes' last Addington win was with Noodlum in May, 1974.

Jack Carmichael drove the last three winners at the Canterbury Park meting on February 12, 1972, winning with Microdot, Forest King and Precocious.

September Mr B. G. Donovan resigned from the committee. Replaced by Mr F. R. Brebner.

Club decided not to charge New Brighton Club hire charges for mobile gate at its Spring or September meetings because of its support during the starting gate controversy.

October Mr I. M. Collingwood appointed a steward.

December Club decided to run its TAB double as a concession double.

1970

February New extensions to Members' Stand suggested.

May Mr F. L. Holmes appointed commentator at the Club's Winter meeting as Mr D. B. Clarkson was overseas. This had become quite a regular occurrence in earlier years.

Death recorded of long-serving committeeman, Mr F. W. Jarman.

Mr I. S. Wales elected to committee after secret ballot, ahead of Mr R. H. Duff.

Mr A. A. C. McPherson resigned as a steward.

Club agreed to send timekeepers to the start of mobile events rather than time such races from the grandstand.

June Death recorded of past-president Mr H. T. Fuller.

Club paid an extra 24 per cent of its TAB distribution into Addington Raceway, Limited.

Inquiries made of Photo-Finishes Ltd and Automatic Totalisator about the possibility of installing electronic timing.

Mr L. S. Smart retires as a director of Addington Raceway, Limited.

Retiring president, Mr E. F. Mercer, elected a life member.

July Mr Stan Andrews elected vice-president. Mr H. F. Butland elected to the committee.

September Members' meals increased to $1.20. Entrance fee up to 70c.

October Commentator, Mr D. B. Clarkson, advised he would retire in March 1971, and would call his last Canterbury Park meeting on January 2.

Sub-committee set up to investigate the overall costs of running the three clubs and Addington Raceway, Limited.

Mr H. W. Grainger resigned as a steward. Replaced in December by Mr F. J. Shaw.

December Club agreed to swap its day in May with the Rangiora Club's June date to avoid a clash with the Canterbury-Lions rugby match.

1971

February Mr C. Ronald completed 51 years' service in the totalisator.

Mr Reon Murtha appointed commentator for a probationary period until August at $40 per day. Unsuccessful applicants were Messrs F. L. Holmes, S. R. Johnson and L. Marshall.

March Poor drainage at Addington cause for major concern.

April Mrs Mary Dick appointed on-course announcer.

Mr L. S. Smart resigned from the committee. Replaced by Mr R. H. Duff.

1972

May Club ordered 12,000 race books for its Winter meeting.

June Death recorded of Mr W. F. Stark, chairman of directors of Addington Raceway, Limited. Mr B. B. Woods elected as a director.

July Introduction of closed circuit colour TV mooted.

September Club voted in favour of quinella betting.

December Stewards of Canterbury Park recommended the enlarging of the Members' Stand by resiting the dividing barrier on the east side.

Standardbred Breeders' Association approached the club to run a mobile mile race for fillies and mares for a stake of $5,000.

1973

January Dr J. M. Langley resigned as a steward.

March Mr L. Carter resigned after 36 years service in the totalisator.

Club commissioned a radio advertising jingle.

April Mr W. G. P. Cuningham asked his Club to sponsor a remit to the annual conference recommending the introduction of a seven-day rule. Decided to hold it over for a year.

Admission charges increased to $1.

May Mr H. F. Butland stood down as a director of the Raceway. Replaced by Mr T. A. Leitch.

Mr S. C. Cordner elected as the Club's second representative on the directorship.

The "A-team"—Des Parker (left) and Trevor Davis, who worked together at Addington Raceway for many years. Mr Parker joined the staff in 1938 and retired in March, 1979.

Horsemen's Association lodged an injunction against the Club racing in June unless it agreed to extend the safety limits at its meeting from 14 to 16 for standing starts and from 12 to 14 for mobiles. After approaches from Conference president, Mr R. J. Rolfe, the Club agreed to the new safety limits.

Bad weather forced the postponement of the meeting from a Wednesday to a Thursday.

June Racebook charges up to 25c.

Club agreed to hold a meeting on January 26, 1974, to coincide with the Commonwealth Games.

July Mr H. F. Butland resigned from the committee, Mr E. F. Mercer was appointed to replace him.

1974

June Function sponsored by the three Addington clubs to marks the retirement from race driving of Maurice Holmes.

July Dr H. G. Crofts appointed to the committee, replacing Mr I. J. Wilson, who had retired, after acting as treasurer for some time.

September Maurice Holmes Trophy competition for Junior Drivers introduced.

December Club granted an extra permit, which was to be used for the first time on February 11, 1975.

1975

April Club hosted World Drivers' Championship meeting at Addington.

October Racebook price increased to 30c.

1976

July Mr F. R. Brebner elected vice-president. Mr H. D. Robson retired as a steward. Mr S. C. Cordner elected to the committee.

The Club's committee at this stage was: Messrs W. G. P Cuningham (president) S. C. Cordner, H. G. Crofts, R. H. Duff, C. G. M. Parfitt, L. A. Smart, R. G. Sutton, and T. A. Leitch.

Club increased value of the Ardagh Memorial Prize to $39.20

September Mr J. R. M. Davidson resigned as honorary surgeon.

1977

January Club gave $600 to the Amberley Trotting Club for a maiden event.

April Death recorded of past-president, Mr C. S. Peate.

Mr P. S. D. Haworth resigned as steward. Replaced by Mr B. F. Hastings.

May Club decided to offer financial support to the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club to assist in the running of the 1979 Inter-Dominions.

June Mr R. C. Derrett retired after 46 years service in the totalisator.

Club appointed Mr Tony Williams as Public Relations Officer.

Club recommended an increase in members' subscriptions to $16.

July Club decided to re-introduce head-numbers for horses at its meetings.

Club elected more than 240 new members.

Racebook price increased to 40c.

Introduction of Eastwood Lodge Mare of the Year Trophy competition.

August Death of steward Mr A. S. Farrar.

Club membership increased to 1,800.

Retirement of checkroom controller, Mr L. T. Woodward.

September Mr M. Couper elected steward.

Club contacted connections of champion Australian trotter, Maori's Idol, inviting them to race at the New Year meeting.

October Club advised by the New Zealand Racing Authority it was eligible for $141,244 under the Stakes Increase Grant.

November Stakes for the remaining five meetings increased by $7,500.

Christchurch Star agreed to sponsor a Drivers' Competition based on the UDR system.

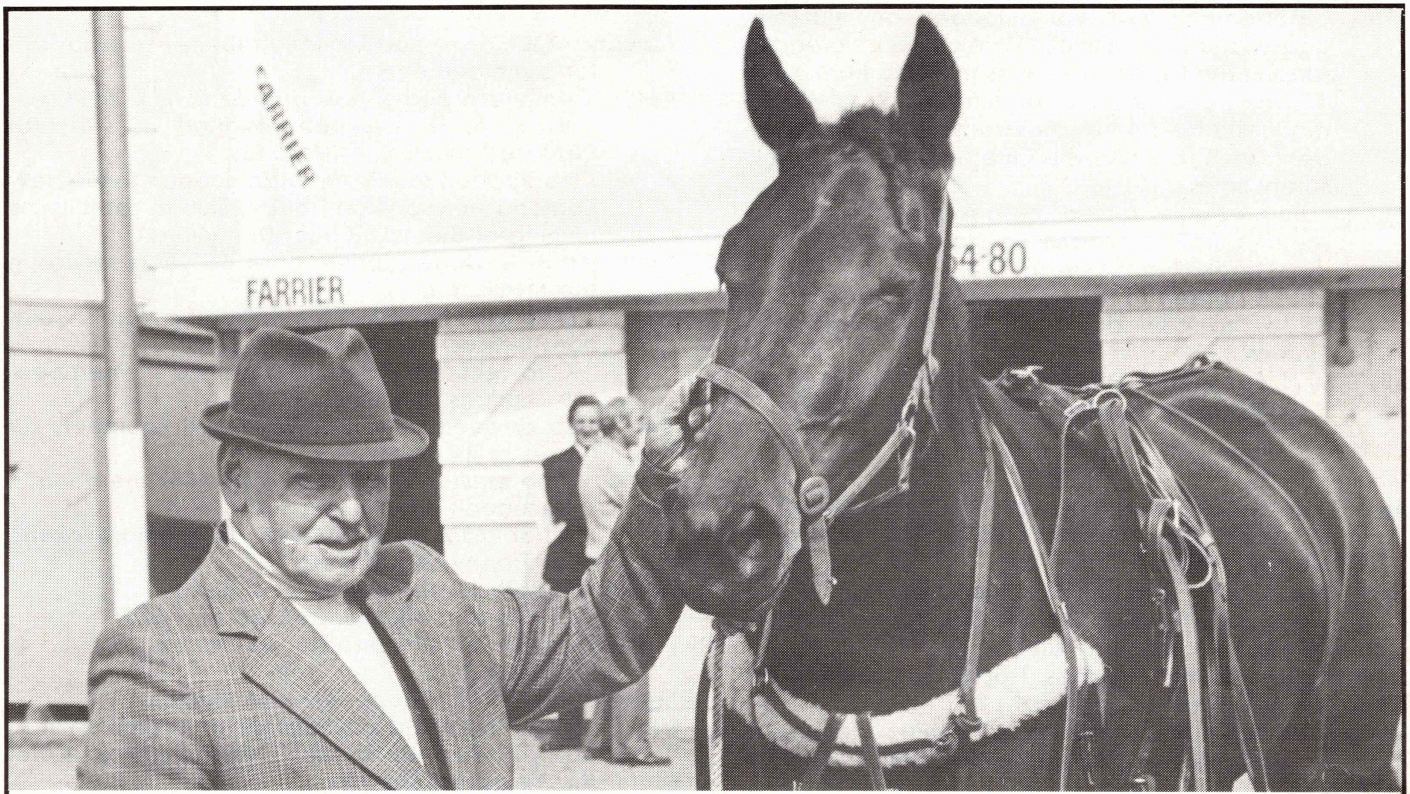
Mr D. C. Parker announced he would retire on March 31, 1979. Mr T. H. Davis named his successor.

1978

February Mr R. G. Sutton resigned from the committee. Made an honorary steward. Mr P. B. Rennell elected to the committee as from March 31.

April $25,000 invested by the club with the BNZ on call and another $60,000 left in at six months.

Directors advised Derby Lodge to be demolished.



The remarkable Ben Grice and his brilliant filly Ruling Lobell, which set a 2-year-old record at a Canterbury Park meeting in 1976.

Mr J. L. Hughes elected as a steward to replace Mr P. B. Rennell.

May Conference advised clubs now allowed to hold ten-race programmes. Canterbury Park not in favour of same.

June Mr T. A. Leitch retired as a director of Addington Raceway, Limited. Club's directors now: Messrs S. Andrews and S. C. Cordner. Mr B. R. Smith appointed checkroom controller, replacing Mr L. T. Woodward.

August Club voted against greyhound racing being held on trotting tracks.

September Mr A. J. Lye appointed assistant racing secretary.

Rugby clubs in Christchurch joined with the Club to promote the October meetings.

November Profits of $7,986 on rugby meetings declared.

Club agreed, after close vote, to hire the mobile gate to the Greymouth Trotting Club for its meeting in January.

December Deaths of Messrs G. Holmes and C. E. Hoy recorded.

Club's promotions officer resigned.

1979

January Club increased price of racebooks for May to 50c.

June Computerisation of the Club's accounting system approved.

Mr Jack O'Donnell, of Greymouth, engaged as race commentator for October meeting as Reon Murtha would be absent.

Messrs D. C. Parker and W. G. P. Cuningham elected life members of the Club.

August Club agreed that Addington Raceway should be approached to purchase a new mobile barrier which would be available to all clubs racing at Addington and also other clubs within Canterbury.

Recommended that the Conference consider asking all clubs to provide the finishing positions of all horses in all races.

October Resolved that Mr C. S. Thomas, "who would be 90 next month", should be proposed for life membership at the Club's next annual meeting.

The Club was not in favour of a proposal from a member, Mr P. M. Coffey, that the three Addington clubs amalgamate and offer one membership to reduce administration costs.

Mr W. G. P. Cuningham appointed to the directorate of Addington Raceway, Limited, replacing the late Mr S. Andrews.

Mr B. F. Hastings appointed to the committee in place of Mr Andrews.

November Lease of Addington Raceway from the Hospital Board renewed at an annual fee of $22,000 following arbitration.

Negotiations for the purchase of the course continuing.

July 1980, and Addington's new race starter, Mr Jack Mulcay (right) is pictured with retiring racecourse inspector, Mr Ken Samson (left) and retiring starter Ron Carter.

1980

March Mr R. Carter advised that he would retire as starter on July 31. Mr J. Mulcay appointed to replace him as from August 1.

April Permission sought from the New Zealand Trotting Conference to reduce the number of starters to ten, six on the front line and four on the second line, for mile races. Previous applications had been refused.

May Mr J. K. Davidson, who had been convenor of the Club's honorary surgeons, to be elected a life member at the annual meeting. It was agreed that the same honour be bestowed on Mr H. M. S. Dawson.

August Verbal approval for a reduction of the safety limit to ten for mile races received from the Trotting Conference.

Admission charges increased to $2.

September Committee agreed to the purchase of Addington Raceway from the Hospital Board at a price of $1,100,000.

November New Zealand Trotting Conference directed club to run ten-race programmes at its New Year meeting.

Addington Raceway, Limited, decided to pay $50,000 by way of deposit for the purchase of the course.

1981

February Committee advised that the World Veteran Games on-course only meeting held in conjunction with the Christchurch Trotting Club had resulted in a profit of $11,545.

Mr R. C. R. Morton informed the Club that he would resign, because of ill health, as chief handicapper to the Trotting Conference on April 1.

March Purchase of Addington Raceway completed on March 10.

July Mr J. L. Hughes elected to the committee.

August Cost of converting Addington Raceway from gas to electricity put at $226,000.

November *Christchurch Star* offered to sponsor an honours board for those horses breaking two minutes for one mile at Addington Raceway.

1982

September Bank of New South Wales appointed the Club's bankers after the BNZ increased its fees for providing race day cash.

Use of electronically-timed photo-finish equipment at Addington approved.

Club's levy to New Zealand Trotting Conference of $37,425.

List of class records as drawn up by Messrs P. B. Rennell and D. A. Cannan presented for approval.

Dr H. G. Crofts resigned from committee because of an overseas appointment. Replaced by Mr G. E. Dickey. Mr P. Doig elected a steward.

Club approached directors of Addington Raceway, Limited, seeking the removal of the walls between the Ladies' room, the President's room and the Free Bar.

Radio 3ZB confirmed a $20,000 stake for Free-For-All to be run at New Year meeting.

1983

February Club loaned Addington Raceway $25,000 for installation of computerised equipment.

April Jetbet system to be installed at Addington in June.

May Radio Pacific given permission to broadcast Club's meeting on May 27.

Moves to amalgamate with New Brighton abandoned.

June Lion Breweries confirms $6,000 sponsorship for new series in October.

Judge, Mr R. F. McCoubrey resigned.

Addington Raceway overdraft of $184,000 recorded.

THREE-YEAR-OLD TROTTERS

In 1960–61 the Club established the Canterbury Park Trotting Stakes for three- and four-year-olds. The first two were won by Our Own (D. G. Jones) and Spark Gap (M. Holmes).

The race was dropped until 1967 when it re-surfaced as the Conference Trot, restricted solely to three-year-olds.

Early winners included Markalan, Deodatus, Beau Winter and Antemeridian.

September Club bought advertising time on national television.

October Club agreed to pay four per cent of on-course turnover from its three October meetings to Addington Raceway as rental.

Admission charges for January meeting increased to $3.

November Likely vehicle for new mobile gate to cost $19,000, plus nearly $8,000 for its conversion.

December Addington Raceway suggested it take over the purchase of new mobile gate.

Club applied for two on-course only permits.

Jackpot betting down to return in January.

1984

February New Zealand Racing Authority advanced $500,000 to the three Addington clubs.

Admission reverted to $2.

March History of Club mooted by chairman.

April Admission returned to $3.

Mr R. H. Duff nominated for seat on New Zealand Racing Authority.

May Racing Authority agreed to pay $14,145 as its share of cost of new mobile.

June Mr S. C. Cordner retired from directorate of the Raceway. Replaced by Mr R. H. Duff who was voted chairman.

August Dr Crofts returned as a steward. Mr B. D. Le Valliant elected to committee.

Club agreed directors should negotiate a lease allowing the re-location of P. Burke and Co. to move its catering business to Addington.

September Mr J. B. F. Wright announced he would retire in May 1985.

November Club's share of TAB distribution set at $266,405.

Club to run a $100,000 jackpot at its February meeting.

December Death recorded of past-president Mr F. R. Brebner.

Lease agreement with Burkes signed.

1985

February Old mobile gate to be sold.

March Mr H. M. S. Dawson resigned from directorate.

April Club wrote to Conference seeking introduction of pre-race swabbing.

May Club offered new mobile gate for sale to Addington Raceway.

Death recorded of Mr H. M. S. Dawson.

June Old mobile gate sold to North Canterbury OTB.

Mr S. C. Cordner resigned from committee. He was made a steward in 1958, joined the committee in 1962, was vice-president in 1968, president from 1970 to 1973, and a director of the Raceway from 1973 to 1984.

August Television New Zealand re-affirmed reason for not televising the Standardbred Breeders' Stakes in January because of holidays for crew men. This had been a long-standing argument between the club and TVNZ.

Conference advised TAB double and treble races can be on any race.

Radio 4ZB in Dunedin offered to broadcast the Club's meetings for $450 per meeting. This was actioned at the Club's meeting in October.

October Heats of World Drivers' Championship run at the Club's meeting on October 2.

1986

February Trotting Conference to be approached to arrange for the televising of the main race at the Club's Centennial meeting in February 1987.

March Recent death of Mr C. R. Witty, the longest standing member of the Club, reported.

April Lion Brown Three-Year-Old Final recognised as a Group 3 race and the New Zealand Two-Year-Old Trotting Stakes elevated to Group 2 category.

July Decided to approach the New Zealand Sires' Stakes Board requesting that it consider introducing a series for age group trotters' races.

Membership of Club stood at 1,556, with efforts being made to increase this figure.

Certissimus was the star attraction at the New Year meeting of January, 1942. The ill-fated champion won the Stewards' Handicap from 60 yards on the first day by four lengths and the Hornby Handicap from 72 yards on the second day, again by four lengths.

WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Canterbury Park Trotting Club has twice staged the World Drivers' Championship meeting at Addington.

In April, 1975 the races were won by: Noble Escort, (Joe O'Brien); Song Key, (Peter Wolfenden); Lord Rodney, (Ulf Thoresen); and Scottish Chat, (Shelly Goudreau).

Goudreau, whose energetic and flamboyant driving style sparked considerable comment, was killed in a driving accident in America several years later.

In October, 1985 the championship returned, this time with only three events. They were won by: Signor Gabrielli, (Jean Claude Hellais); Dream Lustre, (Steve Condren); and Lordshipman, (Tony Herlihy).

1975 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
CANADA

Ill-fated American horseman Shelly Goudreau, seen after winning a heat of the World Drivers' Championship in 1975 with Scottish Chat, which was trained by Ray Morris. Goudreau was later killed in a race accident.

Records at Canterbury Park Meetings

Canterbury Park meetings have produced dozens of New Zealand and World records over the years.

The Club decided to acknowledge this by agreeing to pay class record bonuses of $500 in addition to winning stakes for horses winning in record times at its meetings.

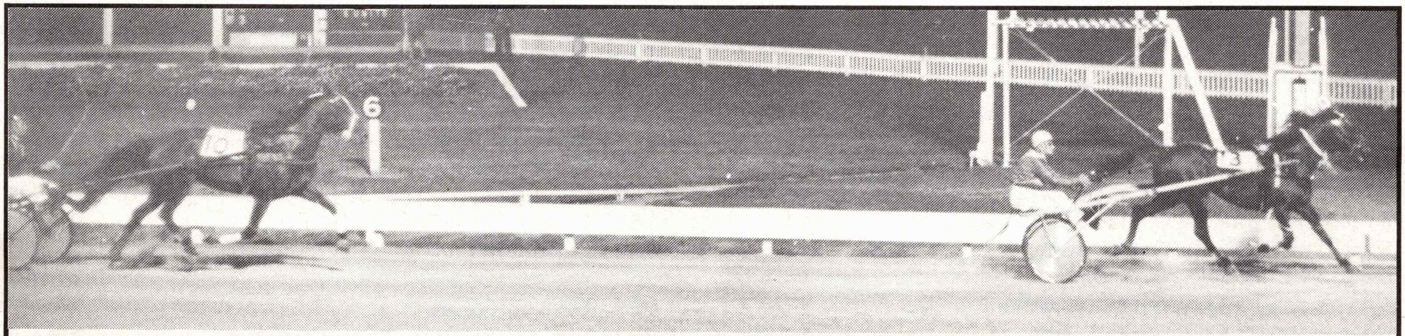
The imposing task of collating the class records, set from the 1973–74 season (which saw the introduction of metrication) was undertaken by club committeeman Peter Rennell and journalist Dave Cannan of *The Star*.

The bonus has proved a popular attraction and an incentive for fast times.

The Club's meeting on January 3, 1985, saw perfect conditions produce four New Zealand records through Premium (two-year-old trotting filly), Smarty Pants (three-year-old pacing filly), Trenet (two-year-old pacer), and Enterprise (open class pacer).

A full list of records set at Canterbury Park meetings from the 1930s is:

1933	Todd Lonzia	T.T. trot	2:09
1941	Certissimus	1½ mile; 3yo trot	3:18
1942	Gold Bar	T.T. pace	1:59.6
1949	Highland Kilt	T.T. trot (2yo)	2:19.2
1954	Vodka	1 mile 5f (60 yds)	3:27
1955	Thelma Globe	1¼ mile (36 yds)	2:32.6
1956	Vodka	1 mile 5f (102 yds)	3:26
1958	Au Fait	1 mile 5f (3yo trot)	3:37
1960	Caduceus	1¼ mile (66yds)	2:31.8
1962	Dianthus Girl	Match race trot, one mile	2:03.4
1963	When	Trotters' mile	2:02.8
1969	Berkleigh	2yo (mile)	2:04.6
1969	Stylish Major	Trotters' mile	2:02.4
1970	Johnny Gee	Trotters' mile	2:01.2
1972	Hocquard	Match race trot (3yo) one mile	2:09.8
1973	King Tryax	2000m mob (3yo)	2:33.2
1974	Noodlum	2000m st (2yo)	2:35.4
1976	Spartan Prince	2600m mob trot (2yo)	3:38.9
1976	Nigel Craig	Trotters' mile	2:01.0
1976	Ruling Lobell	2000m st (2yo filly)	2:34.6
1976	Spartan Prince	2600m mob trot (3yo)	3:29.6
1977	Petite Evander	2600m st (mare)	3:24.0
1977	Nigel Craig	Trotters mile	2:00.3
1977	Glide Time	2000m mob 3yo	2:31.0
1977	Tact Knight	2000m st 3yo filly	2:37.3
1978	Lady's Rule	2600m mob 3yo filly	3:22.5
1978	Prince Rapide	One mile 2yo	2:00.3
1978	Roydon Scott	One mile 3yo	1:58.9
1979	Westburn Vue	One mile mare	1:58.5
1979	Elfin	One mile 2yo filly	2:04.3
1979	Tempest Tiger	One mile mare	1:58.5
1980	Mary Isabel	2000m mob mare	2:30.0
1982	Bonnie's Chance	One mile mare	1:57.1
1982	Bonnie's Chance	2600m mob	3:15.4
1983	Zebec	2600m mob trot 3yo	3:26.8
1983	Lord Alias	2000m mob trot 2yo	2:43.2
1984	Roydon Glen	2600m st	3:17.6
1985	Premium	2000m mob trot 2yo filly	2:46.7
1985	Smarty Pants	One mile 3yo filly	1:58.9
1985	Trenet	2000m mob 2yo	2:33.2
1985	Enterprise	2600m mob	3:14.8
1986	Malaz Freightman	2600m mob	3:14.6
1986	Felicia	2000m mob trot 3yo filly	2:37.6
1986	That's That	2000m mob pace 2yo	2:32.7



Johnny Gee . . . a real Canterbury Park specialist, who won the Stewards' Mile four times.

THE CANTERBURY PARK TROTTING CLUB'S FEATURE RACES

The New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Stakes

	Fillies and Mares	One Mile
1973	Royal Belmer, J. W. Smolenski	2:03.8
1974	Van Glory, D. D. Nyhan	1:59.6
1975	Marie Gibbons, P. T. Wolfenden	2:00.7
1976	In Or Out, A. L. Kerslake	1:59.7
1977	Helen of Tara, J. B. Noble	2:01.3
1978	Classiebawn, G. Holmes	2:00.8
1979	Westburn Vue, J. A. Carmichael	1:58.5
1980	Delightful Lady, M. J. Stormont	1:59.1
1981	Royal Illusion, P. G. Shand	2:03.0
1982	Bonnie's Chance, R. J. Brosnan	1:58.0
1983	Bonnie's Chance, R. J. Brosnan	1:57.7
1983	(December) Bonnie's Chance, R. J. Brosnan	2:01.2
1985	Hilarious Guest, J. A. Carmichael	1:57.3
1986	Quiet Touch, C. J. De Filippi	1:57.8

The New Year Free-For-All

Also known as the Clarendon Free-For-All, this race was run on the second night of the New Year meeting catering for open class pacers over one mile, usually those returning from racing at Auckland in December.

1963	Lordship, D. D. Nyhan	2:01.2

[Not run in 1964, 1965, or 1966.]

1967	Golden Oriole, W. R. Butt	2:02
1968	Indecision, R. P. Nyhan	2:04
1969	Snowline, D. G. Jones	2:00
1970	True Averil, B. J. Anderson	1:58.8
1971	Stella Frost, D. J. Townley	2:02.6
1972	Intrepid, M. L. Edwards	2:00.4
1973	Royal Belmer, J. W. Smolenski	1:59.2
1974	Robalan, D. D. Nyhan (standing start)	2:01.8
1975	Robalan, D. D. Nyhan	1:59.3
1976	Master Dean, M. R. De Filippi	1:59.2
1977	Master Dean, M. R. De Filippi	1:57.5
1978	Wee Win, W. R. Butt	1:58.9
1979	Lord Module, C. C. Devine	1:59.0
1980	Lord Module, C. C. Devine	1:58.3
1981	Bonnie's Chance, R. J. Brosnan	1:58.7
1982	Bonnie's Chance, R. J. Brosnan	1:57.1
1983	Zabadak, J. G. Hampton	2:01.0

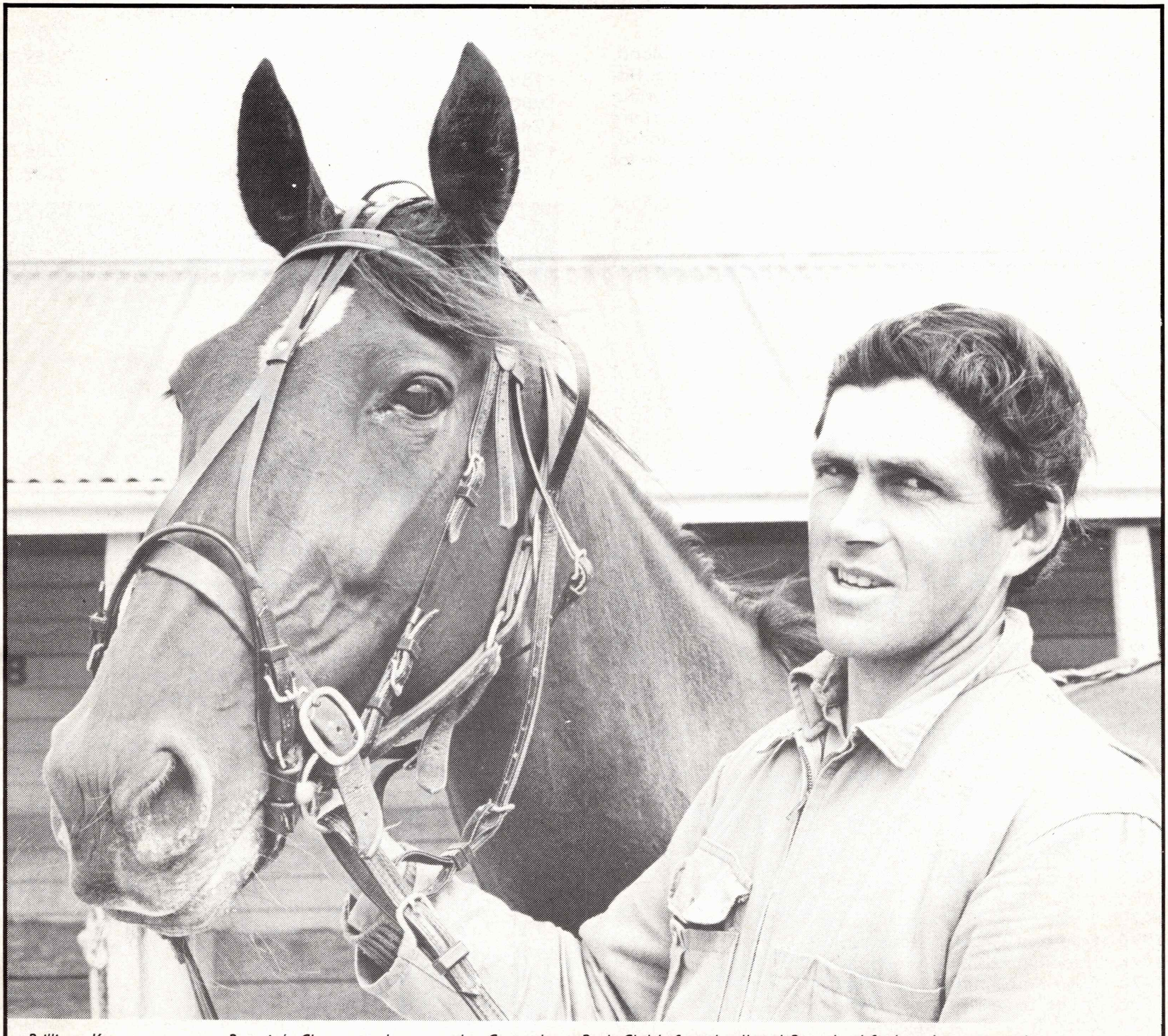
Stewards Trotting Free-For-All

This race, run at the New Year Meeting, was discontinued after 1981 as only five starters lined up that year. One of the few mile events for trotters in the country, it produced New Zealand records in 1969, 1970, 1976, and 1977. Johnny Gee, trained by Wes Butt, won it four times and ran second in 1969. It was one of the oldest races run by Canterbury Park but gained most significance when run as a mile.

1967	Johnny Gee, W. R. Butt	2:05.0
1967	(December) Stylish Major, D. J. Townley	2:04.6
1969	Stylish Major, R. M. Cameron	2:02.5
1970	Johnny Gee, W. R. Butt	2:01.2
1971	Johnny Gee, W. R. Butt	2:03.6
1972	Johnny Gee, W. R. Butt	2:01.8
1973	Jason McCord, M. Holmes	2:04.8
1974	Bachelor Tom, J. L. Ferguson	2:02.0
1975	Easton Light, B. Running	2:06.1
1976	Nigel Craig, B. L. Heron	2:01.0
1977	Nigel Craig, B. L. Heron	2:00.3
1978	Nigel Craig, B. L. Heron	2:01.8
1979	First Prize, D. G. Jones	2:03.1
1980	Stormy Morn, T. L. Thomas	2:03.4
1981	No Response, R. J. Brosnan	2:07.1

Canterbury Park Winter Cup

1971	Smokey Express, fr, D. C. Watts	3:28.6
1972	Siouan, fr, D. J. Townley	3:30.0
1973	Fab, 12 yds, M. A. Skinner	3:32.0
1974	General Demand, fr, R. M. Cameron	3:27.0
1975	Avon Song, 20m, A. Cowan	3:24.4
1976	Helen Of Tara, fr, D. R. Mangos	3:25.1
1977	Nimble Yankee, 30m, F. N. Kirk	3:22.5
1978	American Chief, 20m, F. E. Newfield	3:21.8
1979	Majestic Charger, 30m, R. J. Brosnan	4:14.0
1980	Hands Down, 10m, P. N. Jones	4:09.3
1981	Glen Moria, 20m, J. A. Carmichael	4:18.9
1982	Twilight Mist, 10m, D. R. Mangos	4:12.2
1983	Ansett, 10m, K. J. Vincent	4:15.7
1984	King Aurea, 10m, J. W. Smolenski	4:19.8
1985	Likely Lord, 20m, R. M. Cameron	4:11.8
1986	Andronicus, fr, K. J. Vincent	4:11.8



Brilliant Kerrytown mare Bonnie's Chance, who won the Canterbury Park Club's Standardbred Breeders' Stakes three years in a row, seen here with her trainer-driver Richard Brosnan.

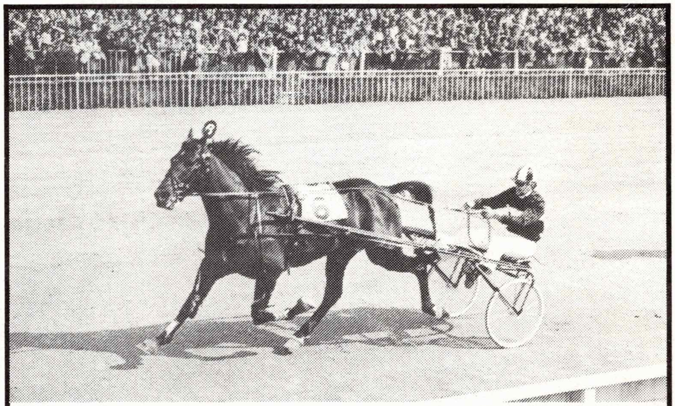
Canterbury Park Juvenile Stakes
(Winter meeting)

One of the earliest juvenile events staged in New Zealand, the Juvenile Stakes was run at the Club's Winter meeting. Discontinued during the war years, it was then switched to the February meeting in 1955. But, in 1963, with the advent of the mobile gate, it returned to its winter meeting slot. The distance, traditionally a mile and a quarter, was also tried at a mile for a time.

1938	Aldershot, M. Holmes	2:55.4
1939	Sir Julien, S. A. Edwards	2:51.4
1940	Special Force, P. P. Gallagher	2:53.8
1941	Sandiways, R. B. Berry	2:50.0
1942	Not run	
1943		
1944		
1945		
1946	Darkie Grattan, O. M. Quinlan	2:57.0
1947	Hilda Scott, S. A. Edwards	2:58.4
1948	Tradition, R. Donald	2:46.2
1949	Young Charles, C. R. Berkett	2:43.6
1950	Vivanti, C. C. Devine	2:41.2
1951	Forward, 24 yds, F. G. Holmes	2:49.4
1952	Lodestar, fr, G. Holmes	2:54.2
1953	Buccaneer, 12 yds, F. G. Holmes	2:48.8
1954	La Mignon, 12 yds, G. B. Noble	2:47.4
1955	Pointer, W. D. Robinson	2:43.2
1956	Bon Ton, D. A. Morland	2:44.4
1957	Gold Hanover, G. D. Shand	2:47.2
1958	Blue, F. G. Holmes	3:06.8
1959	Sun Chief, D. J. Townley	2:44.2
1960	Adioway, G. B. Noble	2:46.0
1961	Not run	
1962		
1963	Cathpete, D. G. Jones (9½f)	2:33.2
1964	Not run	
1965	Belle Byrd, M. Holmes (1 mile)	2:06.4
1966	Dacron, R. M. Hamilton	2:10.4
1967	Not run	
1968	Garcon Roux, J. B. Noble	2:05.2
1969	Berkleigh, T. L. Thomas	2:04.6
1970	Tiawana, J. S. Dalgety	2:40.4
1971	Not run	
1972		
1973	Eclipse, 12 yds, D. Donaldson	2:39.6
1974	Noodlum, 20m, M. Holmes	2:35.4
1975	Olga Korbut, 10m, F. L. Holmes	2:38.6
1976	Ruling Lobell, fr, I. L. Schwamm	2:34.6
1977	Glide Time, R. A. Belcher	2:02.7
1978	Prince Rapide, R. J. Dunn	2:00.3
1979	Not run	

Renamed Stan Andrews Stakes

1980	Fouroux, fr, R. J. Brosnan	2:39.7
1981	Mai Mai, 10m, C. J. De Filippi	2:39.2
1982	Double Smooth, fr, B. J. Hill	2:38.3
1983	Lord Louie, fr, I. R. Cameron	2:39.9
1984	Adios Trick, 10m, J. W. Smolenski	2:41.8
1985	Beau Du Jour, fr, B. J. Hill	2:38.8
1986	That's That, R. J. Dunn (Mobile)	2:32.7



Free-legged star, Robalan, who won the New Year Free-For-All in 1974 and 1975.

E. F. Mercer Mile
Three-year-olds

This semi-classic, usually run at the New Year meeting, lost some of its appeal in latter years, probably because of the John Brandon Triple Crown series in February-March.

The Mercer Mile produced New Zealand records in 1975, when Parlez Vous beat Noodlum, in 1976 and again in 1978.

1973	Young Quinn, R. M. Cameron	2:03.6
1974	Kawarau Gold, R. P. Nyhan (Stand)	2:06.0
1975	Parlez Vous, A. D. Milne	2:00.0
1976	Smokey Lopez, J. A. Carmichael	1:59.7
1977	Belmer's Image, R. M. Cameron	2:01.0
1978	Roydon Scott, W. F. Fletcher	1:58.9
1979	Black Gypsy, J. A. Carmichael	2:01.1
1980	Thurber Globe, R. P. Nyhan	1:59.3
1981	Lock Rae, P. N. Jones	1:59.0
1982	Enterprise, P. G. Shand	2:00.7
1983	Borana, G. D. Shand	2:00.7
1983	(December) Logan Dryham, B. Clark	2:00.5
1985	Loveridge, R. J. Brosnan	2:01.5
1986	Not run.	

The Cross Stakes

Originally named the Charles Cross Stakes, this semi-classic was instituted at the 1944 New Year meeting. It was restricted to three- and four-year-olds but reverted to just three-year-olds in the 1950s.

Like the Mercer Mile, the Cross Stakes lost some of its relevance in latter years.

1944	Imperial Lady, A. Holmes	2:43.8
1945	Native Scott, V. Alborn	3:31.4
1946	Sir Michael, R. Young	3:37
1947	Sir Michael, R. Young	3:34.4
1948	Belmont Hall, fr, R. Donald	3:35.6
1949	Daisy Bar, 24 yds, J. J. Brophy	3:52.8
1950	Van Dieman, fr, C. C. Devine	3:29.6
1951	Van Dieman, 24 yds, C. C. Devine	3:27.2
1952	Riviera, 12 yds, G. McKendry	3:24.6
1953	Magellan, 12 yds, O. E. Hooper	3:31.0
1954	Rupee, 36 yds, D. J. Townley	3:23.0
1955	Brahman, 36 yds, C. S. Donald	3:26.4
1956	Don Hall, 36 yds, R. D. Teahen	3:28.0
1957	Dignus, fr, J. D. Litten	3:28.8
1958	Becky Morano, 36 yds, R. Young	3:29.0
1959	Bargee, 24 yds, H. R. Henderson	3:32.8
1960	Sally Boy, 12 yds, D. J. Townley	3:31.6
1961	Sentimental, 12 yds, M. Holmes	3:25.6
1962	Avante, fr, R. Young	3:30.8
1963	Jilaire, fr, W. S. Cummings	3:27.2
1964	Carina Star, 12 yds, R. Young	3:31.2
1965	La Garrison, fr, D. D. Nyhan (1½ miles)	3:17.8
1966	Phillmark, fr, R. Donald	3:25.6
1967	Fort Nelson, fr, M. A. Skinner (1 mile)	2:04.4
1968	Dark Rival, fr, R. H. Negus	2:02.2
1969	Intrepid, fr, M. L. Edwards	2:35.0
1970	Fantastic, fr, J. L. Ferguson	2:43.0
1971	Arapaho, 12 yds, J. W. Smolenski	2:39.6
1972	Ar Miss, fr, I. R. Walker	2:41.4
1973	Al's Holiday, fr, M. Holmes	2:39.8
1974	Scottish Joy, fr, D. G. Jones	2:40.6
1975	Golden Nurse, 10m, K. D. Townley	2:38.0
1976	Bolton Byrd, 10m, R. J. Dunn	2:37.4
1977	Belmer's Image, fr, R. M. Cameron	3:27.4
1978	Main Star, 10m, A. L. Kerslake	3:25.9
1979	Affluent, fr, R. J. Dunn	3:34.1
1980	Cyllarus, fr, N. S. Benny	3:28.9
1981	Melton Monarch, 10m, J. S. Dalgety	3:25.1
1982	Portfolio, 10m, P. N. Jones	3:29.0
1983	Family Fun, fr, R. J. Brosnan	3:26.3
1984	Kanturk, fr, R. D. Butt	3:23.7

Race discontinued.

Canterbury Park Four-Year-Old Stakes
October

Originally named the Flying Mile, this popular event saw Tempest Tiger set a record in 1979 for a mare. The distance was extended to 2600m in 1980 and Roydon Glen broke Forto Prontezza's long-standing record when he clocked 3:17.6 in 1984.

1972	Arapaho, J. W. Smolenski	2:03.2
1973	Speedy Guest, W. R. Butt	2:01.0
1974	Master Dean, R. M. Cameron	1:59.2
1975	Noodlum, F. L. Holmes	2:00.9
1976	Trusty Scot, J. H. Hunter	2:01.0
1977	Belmer's Image, D. J. Townley	1:58.2
1978	Graikos, S. A. Ballantyne	1:58.7
1979	Tempest Tiger, J. W. Smolenski	1:58.5
1980	Cyllarus, fr, N. S. Benny	3:25.3
1981	Stortford Lodge, fr, P. D. Young	3:24.4
1982	Camelot, fr, R. D. Butt	3:22.4
1983	Matai Skipper, 10m, C. J. De Filippi	3:24.0
1984	Roydon Glen, 20m, W. F. Fletcher	3:17.6
1985	Malaz, 20m, A. H. Hunter	3:19.6
1986	Captain Cavalla, 10m, J. C. Hay	3:21.8

Lion Brown Stakes
Three-Year-Olds, October, 2000m mobile

The most recent feature race introduced by the Club, it is run with two heats on earlier nights of the October meeting and the final later that month.

1983	Logan Dryham, B. E. Clark	2:33.7
1984	Nardin's Hall, J. A. Carmichael	2:32.5
1985	Laser Lad, P. N. Jones	2:31.2
1986	Race Ruler, M. W. McKendry	2:29.1

Mazda Handicap
Class 8, October

This race has become very important as a lead-up to the New Zealand Cup about three weeks later. Camelot completed the Mazda Handicap-Cup double in 1984 and Freightman qualified for the cup by winning in 1985. The race has had several name changes in recent years.

1977	Ganya, 10m, T. L. Thomas	3:20.5
1978	Mack Dougal, fr, R. D. Butt	3:26.3
1979	Idolmite, 10m, C. J. De Filippi	3:22.5
1980	Be Sly, 10m, W. M. Denton	3:21.5
1981	Cyllarus, fr, N. S. Benny	3:24.7
1982	Tarlad, fr, C. J. De Filippi	3:21.0
1983	Kind Nature, fr, J. G. Hampton	3:27.4
1984	Camelot, 20m, D. J. Butt	3:21.8
1985	Freightman, 10m, M. R. De Filippi	3:25.1
1986	Chipaluck, fr, K. W. O'Reilly	3:20.3

Champion Handicap

This race, the oldest run by the Canterbury Park Trotting Club, was discontinued after 1958. It was considered important enough to list alongside the New Zealand Cup, etc., in the Trotting Year Books of the 1920s.

1912	Prince Wilkin, H. T. Smith	4:46.0
1913	Blackchild Boy, E. C. Woodham	4:46.8
1914	Quincey, S. W. Scott	4:44.2
1915	Our Thorpe, A. Fleming	4:38.6
1916	Our Thorpe, A. Fleming	4:31.0
1917	Succeed, L. O. Thomas	4:41.0
1918	Cathedral Chimes, A. Butterfield	4:25.0
1919	Cathedral Chimes, J. Bryce	4:29.0
1920	Agathos, J. Cockerill	4:33.0
1921	Emilius, R. Dunn	4:35.6
1922	Partner, H. Frost	4:36.0

then renamed Canterbury Handicap

1923	Hal Junior, A. Hendricksen	4:33.6
1924	Don Wild, A. Fleming	4:30.8
1925	Pedro Pronto, J. J. Kennerley	4:29.2
1926	Sheik, 96 yds, P. Riddle	4:29.8
1927	Peter Bingen, J. R. Kennerley	4:28.0
1928	Logan Park, F. C. Dunlevy	4:28.0
1929	Kingcraft, A. Butterfield	5:06.0
1930	Logan Chief, F. Holmes	4:32.0
1931	Travis Axworthy, F. G. Holmes	4:22.0
1932	Dilworth, L. F. Berkett	4:26.6
1933	Lindbergh, C. King	4:20.6
1934	Blue Mountain, L. A. Maidens	4:23.2
1935	Master Roy, O. Hooper	4:50.8
1936	Blue Mountain, M. Holmes	4:20.0
1937	Rollo, R. B. Berry	4:59.4
1938	Gamble, M. B. Edwards	4:24.0
1939	Blair Athol, J. B. Pringle	4:27.2
1940	Southern Chief, R. Berry	4:24.0
1941	Sandusky, M. Holmes	4:21.4
1942	Nelson Eddy, L. O. Thomas	4:17.2
1943	Horsepower, H. J. Smith	4:30.4
1944	Loyal Rey, M. C. McTigue	4:18.2
1945	Countless, G. McKendry	4:17.6
1946	Bulldozer, V. Alborn	4:22.8
1947	Navigate, H. J. Smith	3:36.0
1948	Maori Home, V. Alborn	3:30.6
1949	Monagh Leagh, L. A. Williams	3:33.8
1950	Attack, M. Holmes	3:28.4
1951	Vedette, M. Holmes	3:30.0
1952	Burns Night, G. McKendry	3:30.4
1953	Johnny Globe, D. G. Nyhan	3:29.0
1954	Zulu, 48 yds, D. R. Manson	3:26.4
1955	Gay Dene, C. S. Donald	3:30.4

Renamed Canterbury Park Handicap

1956	Roy Grattan, 12 yds, R. H. Butterick	3:25.8
1957	Starbeam, 12 yds, C. S. Donald	3:32.2
1958	Dignus, 12 yds, D. G. Jones	3:49.0

Canterbury Park Trotters' Cup

1963	Flaming Way, 12 yds, A. K. Holmes Harbour Light, 12 yds, J. A. Carmichael	dht 3:31.0
1964	Not run	
1965	Queen's Cord, fr, R. Young	3:30.4
1966	Harbour Light, 12 yds, M. Holmes	3:32.4
1967	Johnny Gee, fr, W. R. Butt	3:31.2
1968	Mighty Chief, 18 yds, L. R. Clark	3:27.6
1969	Direct Globe, fr, D. D. Nyhan	3:32.3
1970	Light View, fr, D G. Jones	3:31.0
1971	Dingle Bay, fr, D. D. Nyhan	3:29.0
1972	Tony Bear, 18 yds, R. D. Butt	3:27.8
1973	Philemon, 12 yds, J. G. Hampton	3:33.8
1974	Great Applause, fr, J. A. Carmichael	3:33.0
1975	Hal Good, fr, D. D. Nyhan	3:32.4
1976	Topeka, fr, P. N. Jones	3:26.5
1977	Petite Evander, fr, J. W. Langdon	3:24.0
1978	Ilsa Voss, fr, R. M. Cameron	3:26.7
1979	Pointer Hanover, fr, P. G. Shand	3:29.6
1980	Waipounamu, fr, J. W. Smolenski	3:28.7
1981	About Now, fr, K. D. Townley	3:31.6
1982	McShane, fr, B. J. Hill	3:29.8
1983	About Now, 20m, C. J. De Filippi	3:26.7
1984	Basil Dean, 15m, K. W. O'Reilly	3:22.4
1985	Tussle, fr, P. N. Jones	3:25.4
1986	Simon Katz, fr, R. A. Prendergast	3:28.9

New Zealand Two-Year-Old Trotting Stakes
2000m

1981	Game Countess, W. N. Forsyth	2:47.5
1982	Charlotte Wood, D. D. McCormick	2:49.9
1983	Lord Alias, R. G. Morris (Mobile)	2:43.2
1984	Signor Gabrielli, K. W. O'Reilly	2:45.8
1985	Barabbas, K. W. O'Reilly	2:44.5
1986	Felicia, R. S. Bowker	2:37.6

May, 1970, marked the retirement of Canterbury Park president E. F. Mercer (centre). He is seen with Mr G. W. Blaxall (left), president of the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club and Mr J. E. Prendergast, president of the New Brighton Trotting Club.

January 3, 1966, saw a large crowd attend the second night of the Canterbury Park Club's New Year Meeting.

CTCP